

Dear Geographers,

As a new initiative we will be sending out a weekly newsletter. There has been quite a bit of media attention in the last few weeks on Geography in the Junior Cycle, overwhelmingly championing Geography as a crucial discipline in addressing many of the societal issues we face from local to global levels. What marks Geography out in dealing with very complex nature-human systems is the broad range of topics it encompasses, its critical eye and its connection with the real world through its field-based engagement. We hope this will shine through in the weekly newsletter, and give you as a geographer a sense that you can be an effective part of the solution in tackling these societal problems.

## RESEARCH highlights

John Morrissey was involved in hosting a major **Brexit Conference** 'Brexit and the Future of British-Irish Relations' ([#BrexitNUIG](#)) here at NUI Galway last week, follow the ongoing discussion from it on Twitter - [John Morrissey @OMuiriosa](#).

On Thursday members of our Palaeoenvironmental Research Unit are heading to exotic Moycullen to collect a bog core. They hope to identify marl layers in the core which will give them vital evidence of **past abrupt climate shifts**.

Last week Maura Farrell and Shane Conway – in their **National Rural Network** roles ([@ruralnetwork](#)) – co-organised a meeting involving 24 EU countries in Athlone. The meeting explored ways of reinforcing stakeholder engagement and enhancing collaboration. See below for more from Shane this week.

## TEACHING highlights

Our 1<sup>st</sup> year's are delving into the world of **open-source GIS**, which is changing the world of geographic and geospatial information science and mapping – see some example at this link <https://opensource.com/tags/gis-and-maps>.

In the final year module **Planning the Modern City**, geographers are writing up reflective journals to apply the planning concepts they are learning to a real-world topic of their choice.

In our **master's programmes**, preparations for the annual [ESD](#) fieldwork in Bosnia Herzegovina continue, while the [MSc](#) students travel to Bertra Strand (Mayo) on Thursday to assess habitat health in their work with the local community.

## Of note around Geography this week

Our **new website** is up and running. It is not yet looking its best, but rest assured we'll be brushing it up over the coming weeks. If you used the old website for accessing year handbooks etc. please find them on the relevant Blackboard sites. The website hopefully will give everyone a good idea of what modern geography looks like. Check out the latest [news](#), it's updated on a daily basis, or follow the Twitter feed on the [homepage](#).

The [#SaveGeography](#) campaign is in the media (Newstalk, RTE Six One News, GalwayBay FM, Irish Times, etc.), feel free to add your voice. Read the latest contribution from our Department in yesterday's Sunday Independent [here](#).

Our **new GIS Lab** (AC 216) is to be fitted out this week. This is a very exciting development as it increases our in-house capacity for computer and spatial analysis from 19 PCs to 40 PCs. There may be some slight delays in transferring the computers, so apologies on that front.

**Talk this week:**

Natural and Human Heritages  
**Spring Lunchtime Lecture Series 2019**

Venue: Town Hall Studio

Time: 1.10pm - 1.50pm\*

Speaker: Shane Conway

**Acknowledging the Human Side of Farm Succession and Retirement in Later Life: A Roadmap for Future Generational Renewal in Agriculture Policy**

The recommendations set forth in this research are aimed at sensitively dealing with problematic issues surrounding intergenerational family farm transfer, whilst also ensuring farmers' emotional wellbeing and quality of life in later life.