

Dear Geographers,

You are passed the mid-way point in the semester, the sun is shining, the first flowers are appearing, and it's Pancake Tuesday! Life is good.

RESEARCH highlights

The RURALIZATION Horizon 2020 project has published its first [newsletter](#). The lead stories are: *The opening of rural areas to renew rural generations, jobs and farms*; *Finding Frontiers for Rural Regeneration*. It also includes a special feature on the Rural Studies Cluster who are part of the project.

What's links Columbia, Romania, Ireland & Scotland? Abrupt climate change obviously! Best of luck to Gordon Bromley who has just submitted a European Research Council Consolidator grant application to investigate climate-related changes in air temperature using cosmogenic dating (so high-energy cosmic rays aren't all bad)

TEACHING highlights

Our MA students ([Environment, Society and Development](#)) recently experienced a highly engaging *Grid Orientation Workshop*. The Grid Orientation method is an excellent tool in gaining insights into team building and group dynamics. Very helpful for class projects and beyond in a career context.

As part of the Clean Coasts National Roadshow, The MSc class and staff are running a workshop in Miltown Malbay, Co Clare to look at community resilience in the face of climate change. The class also have two separate fieldwork sessions on the day, looking at *beach-dyne dynamics at Doonbeg* and biogeographical processes (they fairly pack in the work!).

Of note around Geography this week

Alanah Doherty and Aisling McNelis, both science enthusiasts, are on work experience in the Palaeoenvironmental Research Unit as part of their Transition Year. They were measuring *ice-rafted detritus* and the fine fraction of marine sediment retrieved from Feni Drift (700 km West of Galway), which will be used to determine the strength of deep water currents during transitions from glacial to interglacial periods.

Upcoming talks

Thurs 27 Feb, Seminar Room, Centre for Irish Studies, 4pm

"Bog Benefits: Exploring social and cultural values of Irish peatlands"

Kate Flood

Thurs 27 Feb, Town Hall Theatre, 1:10pm to 1:50pm

Genealogies of Irish dance in Galway, 1922 to 1992

Dr. Méabh Ní Fhuartháin