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Editorial

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Editorial

Mobility and Stillness: Duties of Care in Irish Geography

Ronan Foley*, Editor, *Irish Geography*

In recent years, there has been a mobilities turn in the many branches of contemporary geographical study. This is especially the case in human geographies, where relational theoretical visions currently hold sway. From Massey to Deleuze, fluidities of form, landscape, space, identity, performance, memory, economy and politics are identified as key processes in uncovering how places and spaces are constantly being made and remade. In physical and environmental geographies, recent research suggests that mobilities in and of the physical landscape remain at the core of recent research. For every slowly-eroding granite outcrop, there are rapid movements of coastlines, climates and previously stable geomorphic environments. Yet all forms of movement in place and space are countered by moments of rest, of stillness, recognising that sometimes the more we change the more we stay the same. There are new technologies, new generations of scholars, and new ways of thinking, seeing and doing, where in a hybrid world, the vision of geographers, who by their instincts are multi-disciplinary, increasingly matter. But at heart, the fundamental spatial instincts of geographers remain the same, to describe, understand, represent, explain and challenge the spaces and places around us.

As the latest in a long line of Editors, I hope to follow the lead of my predecessors in keeping *Irish Geography* lively, vivid and contemporary. More recently, under the stewardship of Pádraig Carmody and Ruth McManus, the journal was published for seven years by Taylor & Francis and we would like to acknowledge a successful relationship that has bestowed considerable benefits to all concerned. We are now moving forward, using an online and ‘open’ submission and publishing approach designed to attract as broad a readership and authorship as possible. In addition, we are putting in place editorial assistance and re-organising the journal’s board to reflect new directions that retain and respect traditional knowledges built in to the Irish geographical scene. While the focus of the journal continues to highlight work by Irish and non-Irish geographers on Ireland, we are extending that focus to reflect earlier and ongoing mobilities of Irish subjects across the world by more fully including the Irish Diaspora. In addition, while the journal will continue to produce high-quality original research from all branches of geography, we will also open up space for shorter pieces that reflect important contemporary topics and new theoretical, methodological and critical thinking. A final change from the Taylor & Francis era will be a pragmatic scaling back of the journal’s production from three to two issues a year, scheduled

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to appear each May and November. This still leaves space for Special Issues and we encourage potential authors to propose such issues, which can either be stand-alone or smaller clusters of papers incorporated within general issues. The 2015 issues, of which this is the first, are well on track to be published by the end of spring 2016. The 2016 issues (Vol. 49, 1 & 2) should appear in mid-Summer and Christmas respectively, bringing us back into line with expected annual schedules.

We need to maintain strong quality standards, to reflect the realities of contemporary academia and promote increased citation of Irish-based work. I am grateful in advance for the sterling work of all the journal's referees and would like to ask all working academics, post-doctoral and post-graduate students and subject experts working outside academia, to consider being reviewers. Without your input and prompt responses, the journal could not function. In addition, our new online route will streamline the publication process and, reflecting contemporary best-practice, upload copy-ready articles online in advance of the printed volumes. This will make the 'submission-to-reader' time-lag much shorter and we hope, encourage authors to see us as bringing their work quickly and effectively to a wider readership, within and beyond Ireland. In addition, and in line with the GSI's wider vision, we would make some articles from each issue fully 'open', while retaining full access to members and subscribers. While all submissions are actively encouraged, I would make a specific additional plea for more physical geographers to submit their work. Many of the journal's most cited articles are from that field, yet recent publishing records suggest this is an area of reduced submission, notwithstanding a vibrant applied environmental geography presence.

Irish geographers continue to feature prominently in public and new forms of social media. Hardly a day passes when a geographer is not in print or on television news, writing, talking, commenting, blogging and editorialising on a range of public subjects such as planning, climate change, flooding, housing, migration, health, business, rural change or place histories. Indeed, an increasing range of topics within the public sphere show the impact of a 'spatial turn' as everything from literature and art to politics and sport have begun to understand connections to geography and in their own distinctive ways, reflect them. One of the challenges for Irish geographers in the next decades is to tap into these new spatial enthusiasms; continuing local and national subject work with a wider connection to the world(s) beyond us. Much of the best work in Irish Geography over the years has demonstrated that local and global relevance, but has also reflected mobilities in both academic and public understandings of geographical research. Our work is important, relevant and transferable, and such multi-scalar approaches tap into a very specific multi-disciplinary zeitgeist. Perhaps the secret is to make our work more international in its scope and vision and this would be a challenge to any new work in the journal, even if it has a particular local focus. This volume, 48 (1), is a Special Issue edited by Dr Niamh Moore-Cherry on 'Rethinking the Post-Crash City' that reflects these themes. It consists of a mix of established, emerging and brand new scholars talking together about an important

contemporary subject from planning and urban geography perspectives. Niamh's introductory paper will describe the issue in more detail, yet all of the papers reflect the dynamic ways in which urban spaces, neglected and commodified, remain mobile when viewed across time and scale, and connected to wider processes in other places.

This is a particularly interesting time for work on and from Ireland, given recent political and economic changes and an as yet uncertain emergence from a period of sustained austerity. In some ways the eyes of the world are on us, but it is important to explain the complex narratives around how recovery is produced and narrated and how such processes impact on different subjects in different ways. Contemporary Ireland also reflects volatile global mobilities in politics, economics, conflict and environmental hazards. Yet our own eyes look out as well as in and we must also recognise our own abilities and responsibilities in shaping that wider world. We would like *Irish Geography* to continue on its vibrant and braided course, one that develops the journal's international profile, but equally recognises its core Irish roots; a mobile present and future that does not entirely forget its still centre. In earlier times, one might have stereotyped a physical geographer as one interested in stability and a human geographer as perhaps interested in instabilities. Yet suggesting that geographies can still be broken down into those two crude camps is clearly no longer meaningful and underestimates the concerns in both strands for a better understanding and recognition of those two balancing forces. Contemporary geographers see the world as a continuum from solid to utterly volatile, and how we can best respect, reflect, repair and care for those inherent and fluid dimensions of place and space will remain at the heart of the journal's work.