



IG

Irish Geography

MAY 2017

ISSN: 0075-0778 (Print) 1939-4055 (Online)

<http://www.irishgeography.ie>

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How to cite: Foley, R., Kenna, T., and Potito, A. (2017)

Editorial: 50th Volume. *Irish Geography*, 50(1), 1–2,

DOI: 10.2014/igj.v50i1.1255



**Geographical
Society of
Ireland**

An Cumann Tíreolaíochta na hÉireann

Editorial, 50th Volume

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This volume, Number 50, marks a milestone in the history of the Geographical Society of Ireland and its flagship journal, *Irish Geography*. While not explicitly marking fifty years since the journal's foundation in 1944, it marks the fiftieth full volume, given that there were some lengthy gaps between earlier volumes. It also provides an opportunity to look backwards and move forwards. An earlier editorial from volume 48-1 (Foley, 2015) described the recent history of the journal and there is no need to repeat it here, other than to thank all the Editors, from 1944 on, for keeping the journal afloat through thick and thin. It remains a generalist journal at a time of increasing specialisation and we hold fast to that 'across-discipline' intent. This volume and its first issue are marked by some significant changes to the design of the journal which includes a new layout and cover, incorporating the recently redesigned GSI logo, a change in the colour of headers and boxes to match the new shade of green associated with the new logo and an updating to a new font, which will be used in subsequent printed versions of the journal.

Given its special anniversary status, this first issue, Volume 50, Number 1 contains an invited essay by a distinguished international writer on landscape, John Wylie, whose coastal and memory work have special resonance and reach (Wylie, 2007). In this essay, he considers his upbringing in Fermanagh and notes that it is '*the first time I have chosen to write directly as a cultural geographer about Ireland, and my own experiences of Irishness*'. It is an intriguing and beautifully written piece of bio-geo-graphical writing that is likely to elicit some interesting responses. We would be happy to receive any comments, opinions or reactions to the content of this and other articles in the journal.

The other articles in this first issue of Volume 50 include work by a range of authors from both within Ireland and outwith its shores. That authorship ranges from recently retired to recently appointed Irish geographers and from the Halford Mackinder Professor of Geography at Oxford University to postgraduate students from TCD and Maynooth. While the bulk of the authorship remains home-based and much appreciated, the continuing focus on Ireland as a site of study by international researchers is also to be welcomed. The subject range of the three main articles includes commentaries on: health inequalities (Jan Rigby *et al.*); light pollution (Megan Power, Ainhoa Gonzalez del Campo and Brian Espey);

and traveller culture (Patricia Wood). All are connected in some form or other to spatial variations that have potentially negative political and ecological effects at a variety of scales. Equally, all are drawn from work that uses a variety of data and methodologies and all have an applied critical focus on and in the real world. Indeed, in the case of the evolving health inequalities work, this has already received extensive press coverage.

In the design of the new volume, we are explicitly including a new ‘Contemporary Critical Geographies’ section. In developing this feature, we are not so much replacing as following in the footsteps of an older segment in the journal entitled ‘Changing Ireland’, which ran from 1971 to 1995. Also, we would hope to see more discussions on important and current human and environmental topics to broaden the scope of this part over the next few volumes. The first published paper in this new section, by Mark Boyle and Patricia Wood, is an important provocation on the impact of austerity on Irish society and in particular the ongoing and almost inexplicable attachment to many of the spatial processes that caused the Crash in the first place. This is a subject we feel will continue to appear in the pages of the journal as the full and lingering impacts of that tough time will only really become apparent in the coming years and in unexpected ways across a wide range of geographies.

As the last section of each issue, we will continue to build and develop the Book Review section under the able leadership of Dr Jonathan Cherry and we recognise the importance of drawing attention to the in-depth nature of such sustained work. Indeed, given that the GSI has been running a bi-annual Book Award since 2013, we hope to see more reviews of the winning and nominated entries included in the journal. This issue includes a previous nominee (Andrew Maclaran and Sinead Kelly’s *Reshaping Dublin*) amongst its three reviews, all of which are loosely connected in their coverage of the historic and contemporary politics of the transformation of Dublin’s built environment.

The November 2017 issue, Volume 50, Number 2, is at an advanced planning stage but is likely to be expanded in its size and coverage. To balance up the invited paper in Issue 1 on Human Geography, Pete Coxon of Trinity College Dublin is currently drafting an overview of work on the quaternary and wider geomorphology from the last two decades of the journal to pick up on trends and shifts in research in these areas. A part special issue on Farming is being Guest Edited by David Meredith and will include papers on subjects ranging from gender and farm succession to wider transitions in the farming landscape. Finally, in line with the 2016 Volume, and to celebrate, by extension, the achievement of the GSI in keeping the journal in production to its fiftieth volume, there are plans to include some material from the 2017 Conference of Irish Geographers, held this year at UCC.

References

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