



**ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION IRISH BRANCH**

## **URBAN CENTRES AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Friday 1 September 2017, DIT Grangegorman, Dublin**

**Opening Address by John Paul Phelan,  
Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Planning  
and Local Government**

### **Invited speakers:**

#### **Andy Pike**

Henry Daysh Chair of Regional Development Studies,  
Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies (CURDS), Newcastle  
University

#### **Mike Danson**

Professor of Enterprise Policy, Heriot-Watt University

**(Full Program and registration details attached)**



### **Theme:**

The theme of this year's RSA-Irish Branch Annual Conference is "Urban Centres and Regional Economic Development". Within this broad theme we consider the National Planning Framework, issues surrounding housing, regional spatial and economic strategies and international comparator cases. The issues facing urban development are increasingly prominent on national policy agendas. Urban areas are major contributors to national economies and play a key role in balanced regional development. Key issues facing urban centres include managing urban expansion and congestion as well as promoting competitiveness, innovation, and environmental sustainability. There are increasing calls for support of regional economic development through diverse infrastructure investments determined by regional and national priorities to foster linkages between urban centres in Ireland. It is widely accepted that a planning process need to be put in place for the development of city-regions and it is recognised that without the implementation of appropriate planning frameworks there will be significant costs on the national economy, as it will limit the growth of rural, regional and urban areas.

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## Keynote Speakers Sponsored by the East and Midlands Regional Assembly

### Mike Danson



Mike Danson is Professor of enterprise policy at Heriot-Watt University. He graduated with a MA in Economics and Statistics from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. He was recognised as an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2001, elected a Fellow of the Institute of Economic Development in 2007 and of the Regional Studies Association in 2010. Formerly at the University of Strathclyde, the University of Glasgow and Strathclyde Regional Council, he joined the University of the West of Scotland in 1988 and was appointed as Professor in Scottish and Regional Economics in 1995. After acting as Associate Dean (Research and Commercialisation) in the Business School and Director of Research for the Faculty at UWS, he joined Heriot-Watt University in October 2012. Mike has been a member of several government advisory groups on land reform, ageing and talent management, contributed to the volunteering strategy for Scotland and the employability framework, has advised governments and agencies across the world including the State of Chihuahua through a commission of the OECD.

Mike's paper is entitled "*community resilience and enterprise in the periphery – lessons from the Celtic and Nordic Europe*". As international trade and custom unions move centre stage with the Brexit analyses and negotiations dominating much commentary, there is a tendency to focus on the drivers of big business and globalisation in regional economic development. However, in this environment there is a continuing need to consider how regions and communities who are on the periphery can realise their comparative advantages and prosper. Drawing on research and experiences from across Northern Europe, and from Scotland, the Faroes and Ireland especially, this presentation will explore the contributions of minority languages, heritage and provenance to delivering sustainable development.

## Andy Pike



Professor Andy Pike is Henry Daysh Chair of Regional Development Studies at the Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies (CURDS), Newcastle University. His research interests are in the geographical political economy of local and regional development. He is widely published in international journals, author of *Origination: The Geographies of Brands and Branding* (2006), co-author of *Local and Regional Development* (2017) and co-editor of *Handbook of local and Regional Development: Major Works* (2015). He has undertaken research projects for the OECD, UN-ILO, European Commission, UK Government and national, regional and local institutions. He is currently working on brands and branding geographies, evolution in economic geography, the governance of local and regional economic development, and the city-regional governance of infrastructure funding and financing. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, was an editor of *Regional Studies* and was the founding Director of the Postgraduate Local and Regional Development programmes in CURDS.

**Abstract:** Demand-side policies for city economies have been relatively neglected in recent years. Yet their potential to contribute to inclusive growth by generating more and better jobs remains under-explored. Demand-side policies for inclusive growth seek to raise demand for labour in a city economy, increase labour demand for specific groups, and/or improve the quality of employment. Five types of demand-side policies are business support, demand-led skills programmes, city fiscal policy, infrastructure, and economic planning and strategy. Drawing upon analysis of international experiences from Australia, Europe and the US, policy interventions are identified based upon clear and robust aims and rationales and the careful co-ordination, matching and sequencing of demand with supply-side initiatives at the local level. The integration of economic and workforce development initiatives from a demand-side perspective can be particularly beneficial, focusing on target sectors that are priorities for local economic development. Demand-side policies for inclusive growth in cities can play a complementary, sequenced and supportive role with supply-side policies. Adopting a place-based 'whole city' approach, priorities for demand-side policies comprise: identifying and targeting inclusive growth sectors; fostering demand-led skills development; building closer employer engagement and partnership focused upon priority sectors; lobbying for greater devolved powers; and strengthening policy analysis and evaluation frameworks

## Other Speakers



**Professor Niamh Moore-Cherry** is Associate Professor in the School of Geography, University College Dublin. She is an urban geographer and her research is focused on understanding how cities are governed; how urban policy is developed; and with what impacts. Her current work focuses on the spaces and practices of governance, particularly in the Dublin city-region, and the implications for spatial planning and quality of life in city-regions.



**Mr. Stephen Blair** was appointed the inaugural Director of the Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly when it was established in 1999, and became the Director of the newly reconfigured Southern Regional Assembly in January 2015. Stephen holds Masters Degrees in Urban & Regional Planning and Public Management, and worked for many years as a Planner in a number of Local Authorities in Ireland, including the 1990's as Waterford City Planning Officer.



**Dr. Deiric O Broin** is **Director** of NorDubCo, North Dublin's regional think tank, in Dublin City University. Prior to coming to DCU he was employed as an economic policy analyst in the private sector, where he worked primarily on projects for transnational corporations. He is currently the Deputy Convenor of the PSAI's Local Government Specialist Group.



**Dr. Chris van Egeraat** is senior lecturer in economic geography at the Department of Geography, National University of Ireland, Maynooth. He is research associate of NIRSA and Secretary of the Regional Studies Association, Irish Branch.



**Dr. Seán O'Riordáin**, is one of the longest standing members of the RSA in Ireland, and is Chairman of the Public Policy Advisors Network, a member of Geoscience Ireland and contributes to management programmes in the IPA and the University of Ulster, among others. One of Ireland's leading advisors to government at all levels in economic and local development, he has extensive experience preparing economic strategies and policy reviews for the local government sector, the local and community development sector and national departments in Ireland and internationally.



Economic Council.

**Mr. Aidan Gough** in his role as Strategy and Policy Director, advises on collaborative strategy, policy and initiatives to help InterTradelreland in boosting North/South economic co-operation. Aidan leads InterTradelreland's policy and research team to identify areas where joint Government intervention can help to create an environment where it is easier to do business and increase the competitiveness of businesses and the island in the global economy. Aidan is a graduate of Queen's University with an MBA and MSc in Economics. Prior to joining InterTradelreland in 2000, Aidan was Director of the Northern Ireland



**Dr. Ruth Pritchard** is a research associate at the School of Political Science & Sociology at NUI, Galway. Her academic interests include research on forms of political and civil dialogue, balanced regional development and local governance. In addition, she has worked extensively on rural development and social inclusion issues. .



**Mr. Gerard Brady** is currently Head of Tax and Fiscal Policy in Ibec, Ireland's largest business representative organisation. His role involves engagement with policymakers on public policy issues of importance to business and helping business navigate economic issues. He regularly contributes to regional and national media. He was the winner of the Foundation for Fiscal Studies Miriam Hederman O'Brien prize for research on fiscal policy in 2013.



**Dr. Olubunmi Ipinaiye** is a Lecturer at the Department of Economics, University College Cork, with research interests in enterprise growth, development and policy, entrepreneurship, innovation, industrial policy evaluation and public policy issues. She holds a PhD. in Economics from the University of Limerick.



**Dr. Proinnsias Breathnach** is Senior Lecturer Emeritus in the Department of Geography at Maynooth University. His main research interests include regional economic development, transnational investment and local government reform.



**Mr. Jim Conway** is Director at Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly



**Ms. Pauline White** is Policy Analyst at the Western Development Commission.



**Professor Jim Walsh** is a research Professor of Geography in the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) He was Vice-President of the University between 2005 and September 2016 with responsibilities for strategic initiatives and innovation. He was also Deputy President between 2007 and 2012. He has been Chairman of the Regional Studies Association (Irish Branch). He has extensive experience as an advisor in many areas of public policy including the Expert Advisory Group for National Spatial Strategy and the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas.



journals and books

**Dr. David Meredith** (PhD) is a Senior Research Officer at Teagasc, the Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority working within the Rural Economy Research Programme. David leads the Rural Development and the Rural Health Research programmes. This portfolio of research projects evaluates the long-run nature of key trends shaping rural communities and rural areas by way of supporting David's work with rural and regional policy development stakeholders. David completed his PhD in 2012 (NUI Maynooth), has a MLitt (1998) and BA (1995) from NUI Dublin and received a Higher Diploma in Statistics from TCD (2014). Dr Meredith has published in a range of



**Mr. Denis Kelly** is Assistant Director with the Northern and Western Regional Assembly. Before he took up employment with the NWRA, he had been an employee of Donegal County Council for 24 years in a variety of roles including Senior Planner in Development Management and he headed up the Planning Policy, Heritage and Research Policy Unit. Denis previously gained planning experience in a number of Planning Authorities in the Republic of Ireland, England and the Planning Service (NI). He holds a Ba (Hons) Degree in Urban and Regional Planning and a Post Graduate Degree in Town Planning.



**Mr. Michael Gallagher** is Senior Economist with Derry City and Strabane District Council, he leads their Economic and Statistical Support Unit with responsibility for economic research and oversight of the Economic Modelling of DCSDC's Strategic Growth Plan. Presently supporting DCSDC and Donegal County Councils in the development of a Dashboard for the North West Region and more recently involved in collaborative research project on the potential impact of the UK's Exit from the EU on the North West Region. An Economics graduate of Trinity College Dublin, he completed his M.Litt. Research Degree at TCD on Ireland-UK export performance.



**Adam Whittle** is a Ph.D. candidate in the School of Geography, University College Dublin. His research interests are primarily as an evolutionary economic geographer. In particular, his research focuses on evolutionary connotations of knowledge creation and diffusion, regional economic development, knowledge complexity, network analysis and data visualisation techniques.

## Provisional Conference Programme and Speakers

### 09:00 Registration

**09:45 Opening and welcome** (Justin Doran, Chair RSA-Irish Branch and John Paul Phelan, Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government)

### 10:15 Plenary Session - National Planning Framework and Governance (Jim Walsh)

Niamh Moore-Cherry (UCD)	Spatial planning, metropolitan governance and territorial politics in Europe: A case of metro-phobia in Dublin, Ireland
Proinnsias Breathnach (MU)	The National Planning Framework: Déjà vu all over again?

### 11:10 Coffee

#### 11.50 Parallel session 1.A *Brexit* (Chair: Dr. Helen McHenry)

Aidan Gough (InterTrade)	InterTradeIreland's tariff research & the border region
Gerard Brady (IBEC)	Brexit and the regions: A business view
Michael Gallagher (D&DDC)	Border Voices - The North West City Region amid pre and post-Brexit uncertainty

#### Parallel session 1.B

#### *Regional Economic Development* (Chair: Proinnsias Breathnach)

Olubunmi Ipinaiye (UCC)	Firm Growth and regional factors: evidence from Ireland
Enrica Pinca (UCD)	Knowledge and modern theories of growth and development
Adam Whittle (UCD)	Knowledge complexity and regional development - foreign vs. indigenous actors

### 13:05 Lunch (Sponsored by East Midlands Regional Assembly)

#### 14:00 Plenary Session - International Perspectives (Chair: Chris van Egeraat)

Mike Danson (Heriot-Watt)	Community resilience and enterprise in the periphery – lessons from the Celtic and Nordic Europe
Andy Pike (CURDS)	Demand-side policies for city economies

### 15:10 Coffee

#### 15:30 Parallel session 2.A *Perspectives of the Regional Assemblies* (Chair: Deiric O Broin)

Denis Kelly (NWRA)	Chasing Effective Regional Development
Stephen Blair (S. Assembly)	City Networks – a Driver for Regional Development
Jim Conway (EMRA)	A Capital City Region

#### Parallel session 3.B

#### *Rural and Urban areas in Regions* (Chair: Niamh Moore-Cherry)

Pauline White (WDC)	Regional Growth - Rural areas, towns and cities
Ruth Pritchard (NUIG) and David Meredith (Teagasc)	The Action Plan for Rural Development: Repositioning rural and regional development
Sean O'Riordain (SO) and Chris van Egeraat (MU)	Back to the future-An NSS Repeat or a substantive approach to spatial planning and good governance?

### 16:45 – 17.15 Panel Discussion (Chair: Chris van Egeraat)

## Registration

It is possible to register for the conference online at

<http://rsa-ireland.weebly.com/register.html>

Please note that there is a €70 fee for attending the conference and this includes lunch. Payments are processed via PayPal.

## Conference updates

Updates on the conference will be available on the RSA-Irish Branch website at <http://rsa-ireland.weebly.com/> It is encouraged to subscribe to the RSA-Irish Branch's newsletter to have updates delivered to your e-mail as they become available as well as news of other RSA events.

It is possible to subscribe to the newsletter at

<http://rsa-ireland.weebly.com/mailling-list-and-newsletter.html>

Any queries regarding registration should be sent to

[justin.doran@ucc.ie](mailto:justin.doran@ucc.ie)

**The RSA-Irish Branch would like to acknowledge the support of the following:**

Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly

School of Spatial Planning and Transport, Dublin Institute of Technology

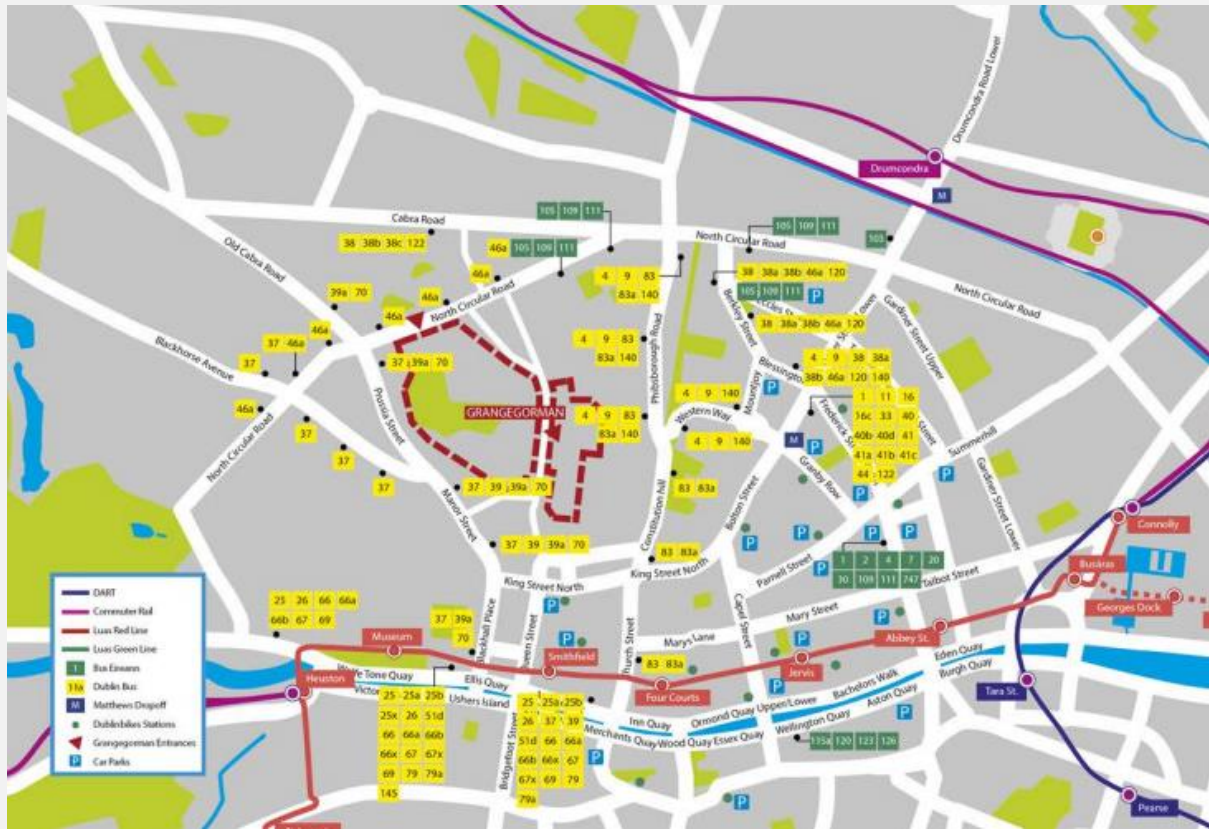


## Venue: St. Lawrence's Church, DIT Grangegorman

The Conference Venue is St. Lawrence's Church, DIT Grangegorman. Number 3 on the **campus map below** indicates St. Lawrence's Church. The DIT campus at Grangegorman is located in the heart of Dublin and is just 1km from O'Connell Street. Grangegorman is well served by Dublin Bus routes – some of which will drop you at an entrance to Grangegorman while other routes are just a short walk away (**see transport map below**). If you do come to the campus by car, please note that paid on-street car parking is available in the surrounding area while the nearest public car park is ParkRite on Queen Street.



## Transport to Campus



### Public Transport Access to Grangegorman

The Grangegorman campus is very accessible by public transport from the local and regional area. The campus is within a convenient walking distance to both bus and rail services. Information on rail services to the campus is provided overleaf while details of bus services accessing the campus are summarised below. Bus stops for each of these services are shown on the map overleaf. As shown, Dublin Bus provides numerous services to the city centre and residential areas across Dublin. In addition, Matthews Coaches has its main drop off point within 15 minutes walking distance. A number of regional and intercity Bus Éireann services are also operated within a 10 minute walk of the campus.

For up to date information on bus services to the campus, check out the national journey planner at [transportforireland.ie](http://transportforireland.ie).

Dublin Bus				Dublin Bus routes serving Grangegorman			
Adamstown	25b	Donnybrook	46a 145	Merrion Sq.	4 13		
Ashtown	38 38a 38b	Drimnagh	122	Navan Rd.	38 38a 38b 39a 122		
Ballinteer	16	Drumcondra	11 16	O'Connell Street *	4 11 13 16		
Ballsbridge	4	Dun Laoghaire	46a		120 122 140		
Ballymun	4	Finglas	40 40d 140	Parnell St.*	40 40d 120		
Blackrock	4	Foxrock	46a 145	Phibsboro	4 38 38a 38b		
Blanchardstown	38 38a 38b 39a	Gardiner St.*	40 40d		83 120 122 140		
Bray	145	Glasnevin	83	Ranelagh	11 11b		
Cabinteely	145	Harold's Cross	16	Rathfarnham	16		
Cabra	120 122 39a	Harristown	4 13 83	Santry	16		
Cappagh Hospital	40d	Hawkins St.*	38 38a 38b	Skerries	33		
Castleknock	38 38a	Kelly's Corner	16 83 122	St. Stephens Green	11 46a		
Celbridge	67 67a	Kilmacanogue	145	Stillorgan	46a 145		
Charlestown	40 140	Kilmacud	11	Terenure	16		
Clonskeagh	11	Lucan	25 25a 25b 25c	Wadellai Park	11		
Damastown	38 38a	Maynooth	66a 66b 66c 67	Tyrelstown	40d		
Dolphin's Barn	122		66 66a 67				

### Matthews Coach routes serving Grangegorman

Bettystown	M	Dundalk	M	Laytown	M
City North Hotel	M	Dublin Airport	M	Parnell St*	M
Donacorney	M	Grange Rath	M	Whitehall	M
Drogheda	M	Inse Bay	M		
Drumcondra	M	Julianstown	M		

\* denotes city centre bus stops.

### Bus Éireann routes serving Grangegorman

Ashbourne/Navan/Cavan	111 111	Galway	20	Ratoath	105
Belfast/Dundalk/Drogheda	1	Kildare	126	Tullamore	120
Cork	7	Mullingar	115a	Wexford	2
Dublin Airport	747	Naas/Newbridge	121	Wicklow	133