



Regional Studies Association Irish Branch Annual Conference  
in conjunction with The Southern Regional Assembly

## **NEW DIRECTIONS FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY IN IRELAND**

**9am to 5pm Friday 4 September 2015, University College Cork**

**Keynote Speakers:**

Professor David Bailey, Aston Business School  
Ben Gardiner, Cambridge Econometrics.

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## Theme

The amount of attention given to regional development policy in Ireland tends to decrease during economic downturns. Developments during the last economic crisis have appeared to be no exception. In 2008 the allocations for the Gateway Innovation Fund were withdrawn. In 2012, the Action Programme for Effective Local Government included the consolidation of eight Regional Authorities and two Regional Assemblies into three new Regional Assemblies. In 2013, the *National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020* was effectively abandoned, without a clear timeline for developing a successor.

However, the spatially selective nature of the incipient economic recovery has moved regional development in Ireland very much to the forefront of attention again. Regional development policy and governance is in a state of flux with different Ministries and their agencies establishing a new direction of action. The three new Regional Assemblies were established in January 2015 with newly minted powers to devise Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies. The Department of the Environment has installed a National Spatial Strategy scoping group to prepare a report on the development of a new *National Planning Framework* which, in turn, is expected to be finalised by the end of 2015. Meanwhile, under pressure from increasing public attention, the Department of Enterprise Jobs and Innovation and its agencies are developing their own regional policies. In January 2015, as part of its *Action Plan for Jobs 2015*, the Department announced a €25 million fund to support regional initiatives. One month later it launched the *Framework for the Development of Regional Enterprise Strategies*. A pilot has been applied in the Midlands region, after which it will be rolled out to other regions. The same month IDA Ireland launched its new five-year plan *Winning: Foreign Direct Investment 2015-2019* in which the IDA has committed itself to increasing the level of investment into each region of Ireland by between 30% and 40%. The main aim of this annual conference is to understand the direction of the current policies and actions, and/or provide direction where required.

## Keynote Speakers

### **Professor David Bailey, Aston Business School, Aston University.**



David Bailey is an influential business expert on economic restructuring and industrial policy. He has acted as a Special Advisor to the House of Commons Select Committee on the West Midlands region and worked on a project for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on developing a framework to assist Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in responding to economic shocks and restructuring. As an author and regular media commentator he has provided articles and commentary on key economic and regional policy issues including the closure and eventual reopening of the MG Rover car plant in Birmingham, UK. More recently David has undertaken European funded research on using foreign investment to upgrade clusters and on industrial and regional policy. In 2014 he conducted research on Irish industrial policy, outlining a more holistic approach, targeting both foreign direct investment and indigenous enterprise.

### **Ben Gardiner, Director of Cambridge Econometrics.**



Ben Gardiner is a Director of Cambridge Econometrics, and has been working in economic consultancy for over 20 years. His specialisms include econometric modelling and forecasting, with a particular interest in regional competitiveness. He is an author of the recent “Spatially Rebalancing the UK Economy: The Need for a New Policy Model” report published as a special supplemental to Regional Studies. Among other things, he worked on labour and migration side of the model, writing the model manual and presenting at various European conferences on the model’s features and how this related to Cohesion Policy. He is also generally responsible for many European projects, including Cambridge Econometrics’ participation in a competitiveness framework contract for DG Enterprise and also undertaking skills modelling for CEDEFOP.

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## **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>

## **Further information**

Please contact [chris.vanegeraat@nuim.ie](mailto:chris.vanegeraat@nuim.ie)

## **Venue**

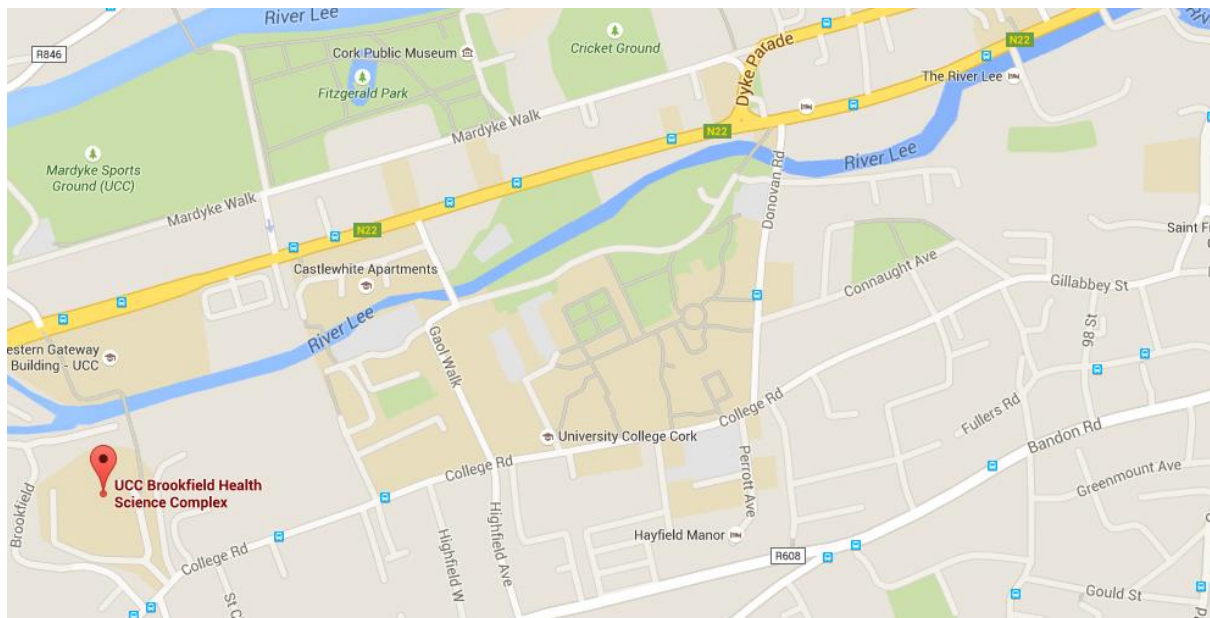
The venue for the conference will be the Brookfield Health Science Building, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland.

## Conference Programme and Speakers

<b>09:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>09:30</b>	<b>Opening and Welcome</b>
<b>09:45</b>	<b>Parallel session 1.A – Resilience</b>
Kevin Mulligan, UL	Unhappiness and unemployment in the great recession: evidence from panel data
Michael Collins, NERI	Different crisis, different recoveries? The island of Ireland in three regions
Deiric O’Broin, DCU	Towards an integrated policy framework for marine spatial planning in Ireland
<b>09:45</b>	<b>Parallel session 1.B - Entrepreneurship and location</b>
Justin Doran, UCC	Entrepreneurship and employment growth: A regional perspective
Bill O’Gorman, WIT	Entrepreneurship and firm formation: is this the essence of regional development?
Edgar Morgenroth, ESRI	Factors affecting firm location
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
<b>11:30</b>	<b>Parallel session 2A - Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies</b>
Stephen Blair, SERA	Regional spatial and economic planning in emergence
Helen McHenry, WDC	Spatial strategies, the national planning framework and regional spatial and economic strategies: rural regions
Pat Daly	Regional economic ambition and enterprise development: perspectives on the Limerick 2030 economic & spatial plan for Limerick
<b>11:30</b>	<b>Parallel session 2.B - Regional industrial strategies</b>
Mandy Lalrindiki, WIT	Exploring and developing regional smart specialisations in South East Ireland
Eoin O’Leary, UCC	Irish regional development: big challenges and missed opportunities
Chris Van Egeraat, NUIM	Where are the substantial clusters? - the limits of cluster policy
<b>12:45</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13:45</b>	<b>Plenary Session - Regional policy</b>
David Bailey, ABS	Manufacturing renaissance and the role of industrial policy?
Ben Gardener, CE	Spatially unbalanced growth in the British economy
<b>15:00</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
<b>15:20</b>	<b>Plenary Session - Regional industrial policy</b>
Tom Hayes, EI	Enterprise Ireland- regional action plan for jobs
Andrew Vogelaar, IDA	Winning in the regions
<b>16:10</b>	<b>Panel Discussion</b>
<b>16:45</b>	<b>Closing</b>

## Venue

The venue for the conference will be the Brookfield Health Science Building.



The location can be accessed on Google maps through the following link:  
<https://www.google.ie/maps/place/UCC+Brookfield+Health+Science+Complex/@51.891547,-8.500688,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x4844902ee5ca8f99:0xbd7c5c5751cb17c6>