

Regional

Studies

Association

THE GLOBAL FORUM FOR CITY
AND REGIONAL RESEARCH,
DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY

REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION IRISH BRANCH

The Irish Branch of the Regional Studies Association and
Waterford Institute of Technology invite you to

The Role of Universities in Regional Development A One-Day Conference

Room G17, Health Science Building,
Waterford Institute of Technology, Waterford

Wednesday 30 October 2013, 09.00-16.30

Opening Address

Prof. Tom Boland, Higher Education Authority

Keynote Speakers

Prof. Paul Benneworth, Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS),
University of Twente, The Netherlands.

Prof. David Charles, European Policies Research Centre, School of Government
and Public Policy, University of Strathclyde (*Speaker Sponsored by SERA*).

Registration fee: 50 Euro including lunch.

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

For conference updates see: <http://rsa-ireland.weebly.com>

For further information: chris.vanegeraat@nuim.ie



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The Role of Universities - Provisional Program

8:30-9.00 Registration Coffee

9:00-9:10 Welcome address

09:10-09:50 Professor Tom Boland (HEA) – Regional clusters - optimising the impact of higher education.

09:50-10:30 Professor Paul Benneworth (University of Twente) - Opening the black box of the regionally engaged university: organisational and institutional approaches to universities and regional development.

10:30-11.00 Coffee

11.00-11:40 Professor David Charles (University of Strathclyde) – The engaged university and the region: a conceptual foundation.

11.40-12.20 Professor Ronnie Munk (DCU) and Dr. Deiric Ó Broin (DCU) - Measuring the economic value and social impact of higher education.

12.20-13.20 Lunch

13.20-14.00 Dr. James Cunningham (NUI Galway) – Economic impact of entrepreneurial universities' activities: an exploratory study in the United Kingdom.

14.00-14.40 Dr. Michael Kenny (NUI Maynooth) – The Embedded University: The University of Mondragon.

14.40-15.00 Coffee

15.00-15.30 Dr. Chris van Egeraat (NUIM), Declan Curran and Colm O’Gorman DCU
Inherited competence and university versus private sector spin-off performance.

15.30-16:00 Terry O’Brien (South East Regional Authority), Dr. Valerie Brett (WIT) and Professor Bill O’Gorman (WIT) - KT Force: towards more innovative regions.

16:00-16:30 Panel Discussion – The role of a university in regional development.

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Biographies Keynote Speakers



Professor Paul Benneworth is a senior research associate at the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies at the University of Twente in the Netherlands. His research interests relate to regional economic development and the knowledge economy, with a particular emphasis on innovation, and the role that universities play in territorial innovation. Paul has undertaken a wide range of research for a variety of funders and clients, including the UK's ESRC, the ESF, the OECD, the European Commission. Paul was one of the lead authors of the OECD 2007 report Higher Education and Regions: globally competitive, regionally engaged. Paul has also edited a range of papers and books dealing with the topic, including Universities and regional development: a critical assessment of tensions and challenges (together with Pinheiro & Scott, 2012) Universities and Socially Excluded Communities (2013) and the Social Dynamics of Innovation Networks, (2014).

Abstract: Despite recent policy interest in promoting the roles of universities and regional engagement, there is an academic literature dating back over four decades exploring the contours of how universities can promote regional development. Yet despite this long-standing set of research traditions, best-practice approaches in encouraging universities to engage with their regions remains elusive. This paper develops a diagnosis of this problem as a failure to appreciate the complexity of universities as knowledge-producing organisations, which host loosely-coupled, boundary spanning socialised learning communities which produce knowledge assets of regional interest. What has hitherto been treated as a strategic management problem – aligning the strategic interests of universities and regions – can therefore be framed as a stewardship problem, with two dimensions. The first is in nurturing the arenas where these communities practice, and the second is in harvesting the shared benefits of these wider socialised learning networks to ensure a series of private benefits. This argument has consequences for both the way that university regional development is understood and the kinds of policy interventions that may be developed to stimulate those productive interactions.



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Biographies Keynote Speakers



Professor David Charles is professor of regional economic development and policy at the European Policy Research Centre in the University of Strathclyde. David's research experience encompasses university engagement with business and communities, technology transfer, regional innovation policy, innovative clusters, innovation management, and urban competitiveness. David has led or been a co-investigator on around 80 projects, funded by the European Commission, UK government, ESRC, OECD and other national and regional bodies. Recent research on universities and engagement includes a project on 'Universities and community engagement: learning with excluded communities' for the UK ESRC programme on the Regional Impact of Higher Education. Previous work on universities has been sponsored by the EU (FP4), UK national government bodies, regional agencies, university associations, and OECD. He has undertaken peer reviews of university regional engagement with OECD in Australia and Spain.

Abstract. The presentation examines the idea of the engaged university as a way of conceptualising the nature of the relationships and interactions between the university and its region. Whilst many studies focus on different forms of interaction such as economic impacts or knowledge exchange with business, the university is a more complex institution with multiple forms of interaction with a range of spatial scales. The engaged university recognises these connections and sees the university as having an adaptive and enabling role in civic society making multiple contributions. Universities may be seen as anchor institutions with responsibilities in their regions whilst also fulfilling other missions at national and international scales. Engagement is also more than just an additional activity driven by policy requirements but can be seen as a form of scholarship and embedded in the core academic mission. Taking this perspective, the nature of engagement is explored with implications for a typology of regional impact and the nature of academic work.



REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION IRISH BRANCH

Speakers



Professor Tom Boland is Chief Executive of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) since January 2004. The HEA is a statutory body established to allocate public funding to Irish higher education institutions; to oversee performance of the higher education and research sector generally and to advise the Minister for Education and Skills on the development of the sector. He is Chairperson of the Board of HEAnet (a public sector company which provides high quality internet services to the Irish education and research system). He is a member of the Board of the Central Applications Office and the Governing Board of IMHE, the OECD higher education programme. He has previously served on the boards of Science Foundation Ireland and the Fulbright Commission. He holds degrees in Civil Engineering and Law and was called to the Irish Bar in 1987.



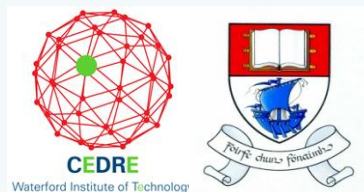
Professor Ronnie Munck is Head of Civic Engagement at Dublin City University and visiting professor of development at the University of Liverpool and at St. Mary's University, Nova Scotia. He has worked and researched in Latin America and Southern Africa, having been the first post-apartheid Chair in Sociology at the University of Durban Westville. He has written widely on international labour issues from The New International Labour Studies (1988) to Globalisation and Labour: The new 'Great Transformation' (2002).



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. He has edited and written a number of books in the area of local economic development and governance. His most recent book, edited with Dr. Mary Murphy, Politics, Participation and Power – Civil Society and the State in Ireland was published in 2013



James Cunningham is Director of the Whitaker Institute at NUI Galway and is a senior lecturer in strategic management at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, NUI Galway. His research and teaching intersects the fields of strategic management, innovation and entrepreneurship. His core research interests focus on principal investigators, university research commercialisation, technology transfer offices strategy process, entrepreneurial universities, technology entrepreneurs new venture formation and academic entrepreneurship.



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Speakers



Dr. Michael Kenny lectures at the Department of Adult and Community Education, National University of Ireland, Maynooth. Michael lectures amongst others on community development and rural development outreach courses and on the BA degree in Community Studies and the BSc Degree in Rural Development. Michael is specialist in rural development, local development and blended adult learning. Michael is National Treasurer/Board member of IRL (Irish Rural Link).



Mr. Terry O'Brien is Terry O'Brien, currently EU Projects Manager at South-East Regional Authority (photo attached). Terry has a wide ranging public sector experience, worked in local and regional government and academic sectors. He is the former Research & Policy Officer with SERA and held various positions in Waterford Institute of Technology. He has worked on a number of EU-funded projects and initiatives



Professor Bill O'Gorman is Director for Research at Waterford Institute of Technology's (WIT) Centre for Enterprise Development and Regional Economy (CEDRE). His research focuses on entrepreneurship, enterprise policy, developing entrepreneurial regions, and examining linkages between multinational corporations and indigenous enterprises. Bill, an industrial electronics engineer accrued over twenty-seven years industry experience before joining University College Cork, in 1999, and WIT in 2004. He serves on a number of government round-tables for enterprise policy, development and education.



Dr. Valerie Brett is post-doctoral researcher at the Centre for Enterprise Development and Regional Economy at Waterford Institute of Technology. Valerie currently works on KT Force Project which aims to enhance innovation practices and policies in technology transfer specifically addressing university-industry relations. Research interest include, knowledge transfer, knowledge and learning, entrepreneurial networking, international trade.



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

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Health Science Building

Waterford Institute of Technology
Main Campus Map

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Engineering & Science Building | 9 Architectural Studies Building |
| 2 Business Building | 10 CHSE and Staff Offices |
| 3 Student Services Building | 11 Lake Walking Library |
| 4 Collegefield Apartments | 12 Watson IT Building |
| 5 Medical Centre | 13 Gallery Student Restaurant |
| 6 Multi Purpose Opened Hall | 14 Health & Exercise Science Building |
| 7 O'Brien Student Social Centre | 15 Vocational & Leisure Building |
| 8 Lecture & Tutorial Rooms | 16 All Weather Pitch |
| | 17 Bus Park |



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