

Regional

Studies

Association

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

# REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION IRISH BRANCH

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM: MYTH OR REALITY?

### A one day symposium

Renehan Hall, NUI Maynooth

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 10.00-17:00

Theme: The Programme for Government sets out to reform local government and the local environment generally. The existing system of County and Town Authorities is likely to be streamlined. This will, in practical terms, include the merging of a limited number of County Authorities, the amalgamation of senior management teams and a significant reduction in middle management numbers. The alignment of local government and local development is also being advanced. This symposium will examine the possibility of reform and whether it is realistic to think that substantial reform can make a difference to the role local government could and should play in Ireland.

Registration fee: 50 Euro including lunch

**Online Registration at:**

<http://www.bookyourplace.ie/local-government-reform-page.html>

**For conference updates see:**

<http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/international-networks/rsair.asp>

**For further information:** [sean@seanoriordain.ie](mailto:sean@seanoriordain.ie)

The event is supported by The Regional Studies Association Irish Branch and the Local Government Specialist Group of the Political Studies Association of Ireland

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# Participants

This symposium will be of interest to all members of the Regional Studies Association of Ireland and the Political Studies Association of Ireland. The Symposium is also open to members and officials of local government, board members and chief executives of local development companies as well as members of the Oireachtas and officials in central government.

## Registration details

Persons interested in attending this symposium can do so by registering themselves on: <http://www.bookyourplace.ie/local-government-reform-page.html>

# Program

## **10.00-10.15 Registration and coffee**

### **10.15-10.30 Welcome:**

Prof Jim Walsh ,Vice-President ,NUIM

Dr. Chris van Egeraat ,NUIM, Chairman RSA – Irish Branch

### **10.30-10.45 Overview**

Dr. Seán O'Riordáin, Regional Studies Association –Irish Branch and Public Policy Advisors Network

### **10.45-11.30 Bigger is better?**

Dr. Mark Callanan IPA, Dr. Prionnias Breathnach ,NUIM

### **11.30-12.15 Local Government reform-A European Perspective**

Mr Frank Gensler Deputy Mayor and City Manager Neuss, Germany

### **12.15-13.00 Meeting the democratic deficit-Building on participation**

Cllr Dermot Lacey, Dublin City Council, Councillor Ted Howlin, Chairman, Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland, and Dr Clodagh Harris, UCC

## **13.00-13.45 Lunch**

### **13.45-14.15 Local Government reform-A UK Perspective**

Prof Robin Hambleton, Professor of City Leadership, University of the West of England, Bristol (TBC)

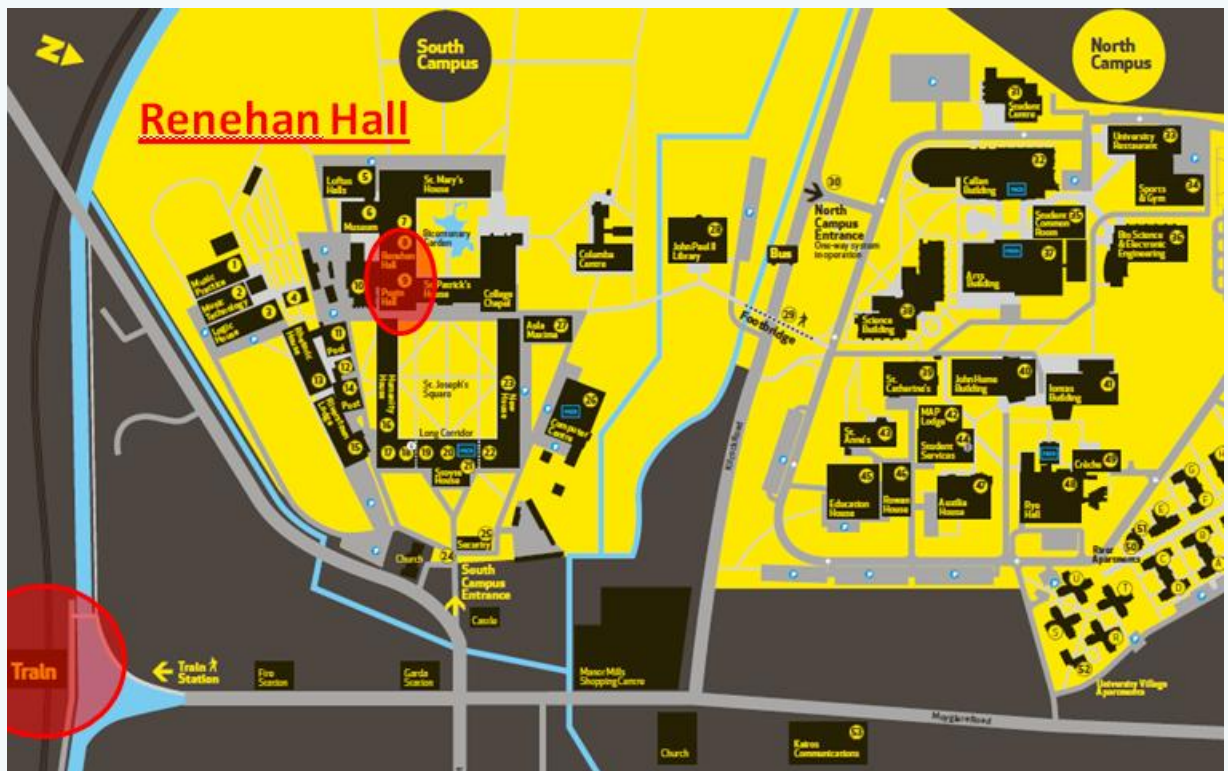
### **14.15-15.15 Returning to Barrington: Time for real change?**

Dr. Brid Quinn UL , Ms. Carmel Fox, Chief Executive Ballyhoura Development Ltd., Dr Pat Gallagher, County Manager, Offaly Co Council

### **15.15-16.00 Panel Discussion:**

Chair Dr. Deiric O'Broin , DCU, deputy Chairman, Local Government Specialist Group, Political Studies Association of Ireland.

# Directions



Renehan Hall is located at the South Campus of NUI, Maynooth.

**By Public transport:** At Connolly Railway station take train to Maynooth (20 minutes). From there, walk for 5 minutes to the South Campus Maynooth.

**By Car:** Leave M4 Motorway on the exit signposted Maynooth. Beware of parking restrictions! Park in the visitor parking spaces only (and pay & display)

For detailed transport options and directions: <http://www.nuim.ie/location>