

**Regional**

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

# REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION IRISH BRANCH

The RSA Irish Branch, in association with the  
Geographical Society of Ireland, sponsors:

## Regional Economic Development three themed sessions at the Conference of Irish Geographers

UCD, Dublin  
Friday 9 May

Keynote speaker

**Prof. David Bailey,**

**Aston Business School, Aston University.**

*(further details on keynote, other speakers and conference below)*

Online Registration at: <http://www.conferenceofirishgeographers.ie/>  
For further information: [chris.vanegeraat@nuim.ie](mailto:chris.vanegeraat@nuim.ie)



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### Keynote Speaker



**Professor David Bailey** works at the Aston Business School. He has written extensively on economic restructuring and industrial and regional policy, especially in relation to manufacturing and the auto industry. He has been a regular columnist and blogger for The Birmingham Post and Coventry Telegraph newspapers, as well as Reuters. He recently led an ESRC funded project on the economic and social impact of the MG Rover closure, which had widespread coverage in the media, and has acted as Specialist Advisor to the House of Commons Select Committee on the West Midlands. His recent work on local and regional responses to economic shocks and recession has been funded by Birmingham City Council, the Audit Commission and Advantage West Midlands, as well as auto companies. He recently undertook an EU-funded INTERREG project on the role of FDI in cluster internationalisation and upgrading, and is contributing to the European Union FP7 project WWW for Europe (Welfare, Wealth, Work), with his input on industrial policy. He was Chair of the Regional Studies Association over 2006-12 and is now an Honorary Vice-Chair, and an Editor of the Association's flagship journal *Regional Studies*.

**Abstract:** This paper examines the implications of a place-based economic strategy in the context of the UK Coalition government's framework for achieving local growth and the creation of Local Economic Partnerships in England. It draws on the international literature to outline the basic foundations of place-based policy approaches. It explores two key features, particularly as they relate to governance institutions and to the role of knowledge. After examining key concepts in the place-based policy literature, such as 'communities of interest' and 'capital city' and 'local elites', it shows how they might be interpreted in an English policy context. The paper then discusses a place-based approach towards an understanding of the role of knowledge, linked to debates around 'smart specialisation'. In doing so, it shows why there is an important 'missing space' in local growth between the 'national' and the 'local' and how that space might be filled through appropriate governance institutions and policy responses. Overall, the paper outlines what a place-based approach might mean in particular for Central Government, in changing its approach towards sub-national places and for local places, in seeking to realise their own potential. Furthermore, it outlines what the 'missing space' is and how it might be filled, and therefore what a place-based sub-national economic strategy might address.



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### **Other Confirmed Papers Include**

**Dieter F. Kogler (UCD), Jürgen Essletzbichler (University College London) and David Rigby (UCLA)**

The Evolution of Invention within European Regions, 1980-2005

**Justin Doran (School of Economics, UCC)**

Employment Resilience during the 2008 Economic Crisis: Insights from Micro Level Data for a Selection of European Countries

**Brendan Williams (UCD)**

The Changing Role of Property Market Factors in Regional Economic Development following Boom/Collapse

**Martin Sokol (TCD)**

Can Silicon Valley be Replicated in Post-socialist Eastern Europe?

**Pat Collins (NUIG)**

Gauging the Impacts of the Volvo Ocean Race Finale from a Tourist, Residents and Business Perspective

**Enda Keenan and Des McCafferty (MIC/UL)**

Foreign Direct Investment, Agency-Assisted Employment and the Economic Development of Ireland's Atlantic Gateway Cities, 1993-2011

**Proinnsias Breathnach (NUIM), Chris van Egeraat (NUIM) and Declan Curran (DCU)**

Regional Economic Resilience in Ireland: The Roles of Industrial Structure and Foreign Inward Investment



## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE



46<sup>th</sup> Conference of Irish Geographers  
University College Dublin, 8-10 May 2014

### Welcome to the Conference of Irish Geographers

The Conference of Irish Geographers is the annual conference of the Geographical Society of Ireland (GSI), in association with the wider geographical community in Ireland. The conference has an established reputation having run continuously since 1968. Since its first meeting, the conference has grown with almost 200 attendees at recent events. Over the years the Conference has played a key role in facilitating networking among the academic, policy and practice communities, and has welcomed international colleagues including Prof David Harvey and Prof Helga Leitner and public figures, such as Robert Fisk, as keynote speakers.

Through a varied programme of paper, poster, workshop and fieldtrip sessions as well as social events, the Conference of Irish Geographers has become an important and enriching part of the annual activities of the GSI. We hope that you will consider joining us at this year's conference, further details of which may be found on this website. To return to the Society website, please [click here](#).

Dr Frances Fahy  
GSI President

**Early Bird Registration deadline: Friday, 28 March 2014**

Registration type	Fee (€)
Early bird: GSI / AGTI member	100
Early bird: Non-member	130
Early bird: Student	65
<b>After March 28<sup>th</sup> standard fees apply as follow:</b>	
GSI / AGTI member	120
Non-member	150
Student	80

Online Registration at: <http://www.conferenceofirishgeographers.ie/>