

Regional

Studies

Association

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

# REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION IRISH BRANCH

One Day Conference

## Irish Regions in the Smart Economy

Renehan Hall, NUI Maynooth  
Monday 12 September 2011, 10.15-17:00

Key note speakers

**Joaquim Oliveira Martins** - Head, Regional Policy Division, OECD

**Jose Enrique Garcilazo** - Head, Regional Growth and Policies Unit , OECD

Economic crises force government action. In Ireland a key policy response has been the Smart Economy action plan. This sets out a vision of structural reform - one that envisages the Irish economy moving away from a reliance on traditional manufacturing and low-skilled services. In its place will be a smart economy, characterised by export-led growth, a strong focus on innovation, R&D intensive multinationals, quality entrepreneurship, high skills and high value jobs. At the European Union level the mantra of smart (regional) specialization is seen as the best choice for competing successfully in the knowledge economy. In Ireland, little attention has been given to the regional aspects of this strategy and the effects on balanced regional development. This one day conference considers the roles different Irish regions play in the national smart economy, given their strongly varying economic structures and levels of connectivity.

Registration fee: 50 Euro including lunch. Students: 20 Euro

**Online Registration at:**

<http://maynoothcampus.globalenginemedias.com/conference2?conf=IrishRegions>

**For conference updates see:**

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

**For further information:** [chris.vanegeraat@nuim.ie](mailto:chris.vanegeraat@nuim.ie)



NUI MAYNOOTH  
O'NEILL AN BÉIRNE MÓ NUAD

**NIRSA**

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR REGIONAL AND SPATIAL ANALYSIS  
AN INSTITIÚD NAISIÚNTA UM ANAILÍS REIGIÚNACH AGUS SPÁSÚIL

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# **REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION IRISH BRANCH**

## **Irish Regions in the Smart Economy: Provisional Program**

**9:45-10:15 Registration Coffee**

**10:15 Welcome:**

Chris van Egeraat, Chair Regional Studies Association, Irish Branch  
Professor Philip Nolan, President NUI Maynooth

**10:30 Opening Address: Professor Peter Clinch, Vice-President for Innovation, UCD**  
*Building Ireland's Smart Economy*

**10:45-11.45 Regions for Growth - Keynote**

Joaquim Oliveira Martins, OECD: *The contribution of regions to aggregate growth in OECD countries* (Speaker sponsored by the Geography Department, NUIM):

Jose Enrique Garcilazo, OECD: *Trends and drivers of growth in OECD regions and implications for lagging regions* (Speaker sponsored by NIRSA, NUIM)

**11.45-13.00 Innovation, Knowledge and Regional development**

Justin Doran, Eoin O'Leary & Declan Jordan, UCC: *Irish innovation policy and regional development*

Jim Walsh NUIM, Vice President Innovation NUI Maynooth: *Higher education and regional development*

Maria Ginnity , Head of Enterprise Policy Forfas: *Title TBC*

**13.00-14.00 Lunch Pugin Hall**

**14.00-15.30 Agency perspectives – Indigenous and Exogenous Resources and the Regional Knowledge Economy**

John O'Brien, Company Secretary and Head of Corporate Strategy, IDA Ireland: *The Role of FDI in Regional Development*

Tom Hayes, Manager Regional Offices, Enterprise Ireland: *The Export Challenge*

Vincent Cunnane, CEO Shannon Development: *Regional Competitiveness: A New Approach.*

**15.30-16.00 Coffee**

**16.00-17.00 Urban Centres, Rural Areas and Regional Development**

Edgar Morgenroth, ESRI: *The importance of urban centres for smart growth*

Kevin Heanue, Teagasc: *Agriculture and regional development*

## REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION IRISH BRANCH

### Irish Regions in the Smart Economy

#### Biographies Keynote Speakers



**Joaquim Oliveira Martins** is currently the Head of the Regional Development Division at the OECD, focusing on regional performance and policies. He was the former Head of the Structural Economic Statistics Division, dealing with Trade & Globalisation indicators, Productivity measurement and Business statistics. Previously, he was Senior Economist at the Economics Department heading projects on the Economics of Education, Ageing and Growth, and Health Systems. He was also Head of Desk for emerging markets, where he was in charge of the first Economic Surveys of Brazil, Chile and several transition countries. Other OECD projects include monographs on Competition, Regulation and Performance and Policy Response to the Threat of Global Warming. He is lecturer at University of Paris-Dauphine and Sciences Po, Paris. He holds a PhD in Economics from University of Paris-I, Pantheon-Sorbonne.



**Jose Enrique Garcilazo** is the Head of Unit - Regional Growth and Policies, Public Governance & Territorial Development Directorate, OECD. Enrique holds a PhD Public Policy, LBJ School of Public Affairs - University of Texas at Austin. He has conducted research and published widely in the area of regional economic development. He was the lead author of: How Regions Grow: Trends and Analysis, OECD 2009; Regions Matter: Economic Recovery, Innovation and Sustainable Growth, OECD 2009; OECD Regions at a Glance 2009.

# REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION IRISH BRANCH

## Speakers



**Dr. Vincent Cunnane** became Chief Executive of Shannon Development in June 2008. He was formerly Vice President Research (VPR) at the University of Limerick and Associate Professor in Physical Chemistry. Dr Cunnane was also appointed Chief Executive of the Mid West Task Force set up by Government in January 2009, and in December 2009, Dr Cunnane was appointed a member of the board of the Shannon Airport Authority.



**Dr. John O'Brien** is Company Secretary and Head of Corporate Strategy at IDA Ireland and is a member of its Executive Committee. From 1999 to 2007 he served as Economic Adviser and Programme Manager to the Tánaiste and Ministers for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Health and Justice. Prior to that appointment he held various senior executive positions with IDA in both Ireland and the US. He also worked for the European Union and has undertaken economic development assignments for the World Bank



**Dr. Eoin O'Leary** is Programme Director on the MA (Economics). Born in Dublin but raised in Cork. Since acquiring a PhD in 1995 he has developed an international reputation for the study of regional competitiveness, with publications in *Regional Studies*, *the International Regional Science Review* *Spatial Economic Analysis* and has published a book, entitled: *Irish Regional Development: A New Agenda*, with The Liffey Press. Eoin has pioneered the study of innovation in Irish industry. Eoin acted as chair of the Regional Science Association International: (British and Irish Section) between 2005 and 2009.



**Dr. Justin Doran** is a member of the Department of Economics in University College Cork since 2008. His research interests lie in the area of business innovation, firm performance, regional growth and applied econometrics. He is an active member of the Regional Science Association International (British and Irish Section), the Regional Studies Association and the Danish Research Unit on Industrial Development (DRUID)



**Ms Maria Ginnity** Maria Ginnity heads up the Enterprise Policy Department at Forfás. Maria played a key role in the development of a number of enterprise related strategies including Making it Happen – An Enterprise Outlook (2010), Regional Competitiveness Agendas (2009), Catching the Wave, a Services Strategy for Ireland (2008), The Report of the High Level Group on Manufacturing (2006) and Ahead of the Curve, Ireland's place in the Global Economy (2004). Maria has worked closely with Government Departments and the Development agencies on stimulating regional development in line with the National Spatial Strategy..



**Professor Peter Clinch** is Vice President for Innovation at UCD where he holds Chairs in Economic Integration and Planning. In 2002, Peter co-authored *After the Celtic Tiger* a book warning of the end of the Irish economic boom. Subsequently, between 2008 and 2011, he was Special Adviser to the Taoiseach at which time, *inter alia*, he drafted *Building Ireland's Smart Economy*, was instrumental in establishing the Innovation Taskforce and Innovation Fund Ireland, and represented Ireland on economic missions and in delegations to meet Heads of State including US President Obama and Chinese Premier Wen Jibao.

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**Dr Philip Nolan** was appointed President of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth on 15th August 2011. He received the primary medical degrees of MB BCH BAO in 1991 from UCD. He was awarded a PhD for his research on the control of breathing and the cardiovascular system during sleep. He joined the staff of University College Dublin 1996. He led the development UCD's Health Sciences Centre, which opened in 2005, and acted as Director of the UCD Conway Institute from 2003-2004. He was appointed Registrar and Deputy President of UCD in 2004.



**Dr. Kevin Heanue** is an Economist who works in Teagasc's Rural Economy Research Centre, Athenry, Co. Galway, researching innovation and knowledge transfer in the agricultural sector. He graduated with PhD from Dublin City University Business School. Kevin is also an Adjunct Lecturer at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics NUI Galway, and a Research Associate at the Centre for Innovation and Structural Change and at the Irish Centre for Rural Transformation and Sustainability, both of which are based in NUI Galway.



**Professor Edgar Morgenroth** is programme co-ordinator for research on transport and infrastructure at the ESRI. He holds a PhD in Economics from Keele University in the UK. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Trinity College Dublin. Dr Morgenroth was appointed as an independent member of the National Economic and Social Council (NESCC) by the Taoiseach Mr Enda Kenny. His work is widely published including papers in Journals such as the *Journal of International Economics*, *Canadian Journal of Economics*, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, *Applied Economics* and *Regional Studies*.



**Professor Jim Walsh** Professor Jim Walsh is Vice President for Innovation and Deputy President at NUI Maynooth where prior to 2005 he was Head of the Department of Geography for 10 years. During that period he was also one of the founding members of NIRSA and the ICLR. He was Chairman of the Irish Branch of the Regional Studies Association between 1994 and 1998. Recently he was appointed a Fellow of the Regional Studies Association. He has published extensively on several aspects of regional development and spatial planning in Ireland. He is currently exploring scenarios for the future development of higher education in Ireland.



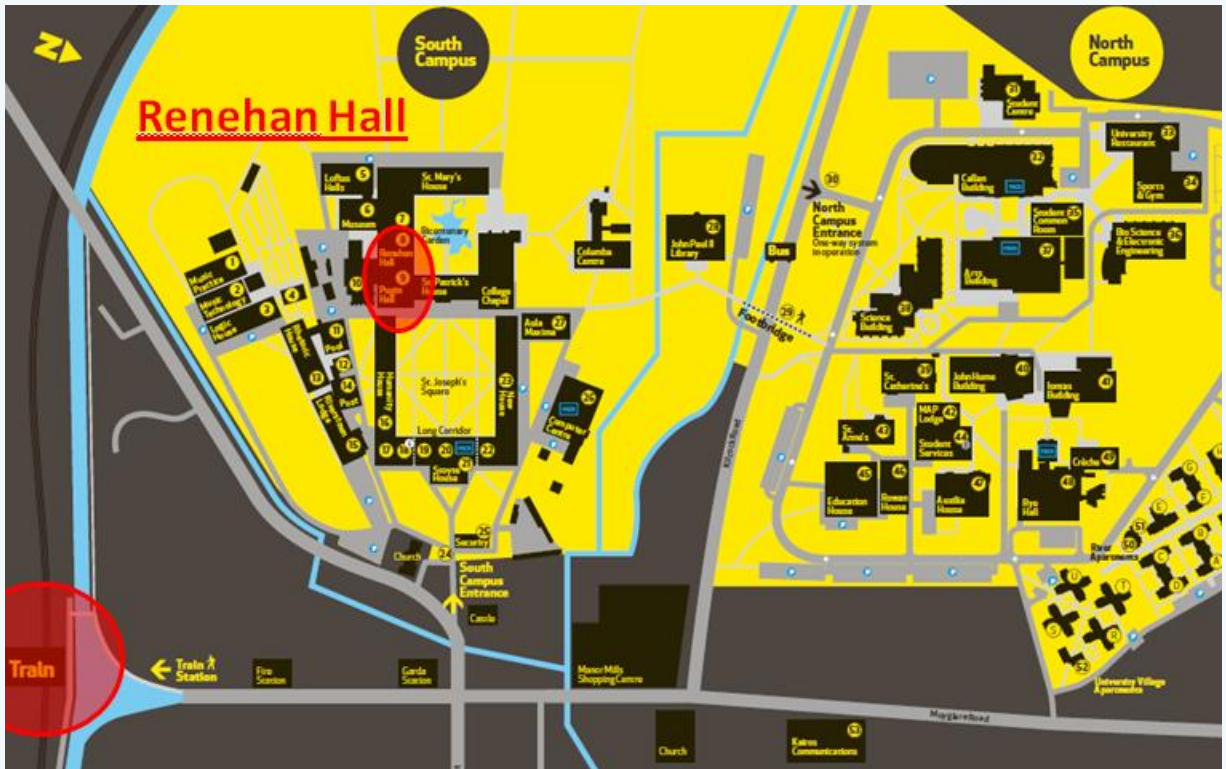
**Mr. Tom Hayes** Tom Hayes is Divisional Manager with responsibility for Entrepreneurship and Human Resources at Enterprise Ireland. He also manages the organisation's network of Irish regional offices. Prior to his current position, Tom managed Enterprise Ireland's High Potential Start-up Division with responsibility for delivering a yearly target of new High Potential Start-Up companies. Tom has wide range of business experience having worked with a variety of industrial sectors and with the food sector. Tom is a graduate of the College of Commerce and Trinity College Dublin



**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.

# REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION IRISH BRANCH

## Irish Regions in the Smart Economy - 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. Currently there are no parking restrictions on the South Campus. (There are restrictions on the North Campus!)

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