
School of Natural Sciences - Research News

September 2016

PUBLICATIONS

Quentin Crowley and co-authors published a chapter in a new book which presents some of the findings of the largest collaborative cross-border programme of geoscience surveys ever undertaken on the island of Ireland, representing €15 million funding between 2004-2013: Cooper M, Anderson P, Condon D, Ellam R, Meighan I, Crowley QG (2016) Intrusion history of the Late Caledonian, Newry Igneous Complex, Northern Ireland revealed by high resolution Tellus geophysics and U-Pb age constraints, In *Unearthed: impacts of the Tellus surveys of the north of Ireland*, Royal Irish Academy, pp230-239

Nicola Marples has co-authored a [paper](#) with **Keith McMahon** on “Reduced dietary conservatism in a wild bird in the presence of intraspecific competition”.

Gary O’Sullivan has [paper](#) published in *Geology* on “Detecting magma-poor orogens in the detrital record.”

Aodhan O Gogain has [paper](#) published in *Palaeontology* on “Fish and tetrapod communities across a marine to brackish salinity gradient in the Pennsylvanian (early Moscovian) Minto Formation of New Brunswick, Canada, and their palaeoecological and palaeogeographical implications.”

Jane Stout has co-authored a [paper](#) on “A horizon scan of future threats and opportunities for pollinators and pollination” which resulted in an interview for [UTV](#) news and was featured on TCD [News](#).

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Nicola Marples and **David Kelly** are co-authors on a conference paper (published in the proceedings) with their collaborators in Engineering, looking at the forensic analysis of birdsong: O’Reilly C, Marples N.M., Kelly D.J., Harte N 2016 YIN-bird: Improved Pitch Tracking for Bird Vocalisations. In: INTERSPEECH 2016 – 17th Annual Conference of the International Speech Communication Association.

Quentin Crowley and former PhD student Vincent Mouchi presented a poster entitled Characterization of Holocene NE Atlantic climatic variations using the cold-water coral *Lophelia pertusa* at the 35th International Geological Congress in Cape Town, South Africa.

Jane Stout attended the COST Super B and EurBee conferences in Romania; co-organising a workshop on improving Ecological Focus Areas for pollinators and presenting an oral paper on wider values of pollination.

iCrag-funded postgrad students (**Oakley Turner** and **Isadora Henrichs**) and postdocs (**Lingli Zhou** and **Thomas Riegler**) attend the 35th International Geological Congress in South Africa.

SAVE THE DATE: The Irish Forum on Natural Capital is hosting a [conference](#) “Making Nature Count” on 4th October in the National Concert Hall, with fringe events in TCD on 3rd (Public lecture by Tony Juniper titled ‘What has Nature ever done for us?’) and 5th (Natural Capital: Is it worth it? - an Academic Discussion on whether the opportunities of valuing natural capital in order to protect nature outweigh the risks - panellists include **Yvonne Buckley** and **Patrick Bresnihan**). See [here](#) for details.

SAVE THE DATE: The Irish Ecological Association is holding its first meeting “Ecology and Evolution Ireland” in Sligo 24-26 November. See [here](#) for tickets.

The Geographical Society of Ireland have won the bid to host the International Geographical Congress in Dublin 2024. Well done **Anna Davies** and other members of the organising committee!

FUNDING/NEW RESEARCHERS

Congratulations to **ERC Advanced Grant applicants** – of the 10 applications from Trinity **FOUR** were from the School of Natural Sciences. Well done and good luck to all.

Jane Feeney has been awarded an IRC postgraduate scholarship to work on “Valuable biodiversity: Examining the values and impacts of biodiversity offsetting initiatives in Colombia”, supervised by **Anna Davies**.

Saskia Ryan has been awarded a Fulbright-GSI Fellowship to Harvard to use a geochemical approach to study ancient human mobility.

Jane Stout has been awarded EPA funding for a 2-year project “POLLIVAL: assessing market and non-market values of pollination services in Ireland”.

Nicola Marples and **Celia Holland** have a new postgrad student **Rachel Byrne**, funded by the Department of Agriculture, working on the parasites of badgers.

Georgia O'Sullivan has been awarded an IRC postgraduate scholarship to work on "Evolution of Shape in the Vertebrate Skeleton: the importance of embryo movement", supervised by **Paula Murphy** and co-supervised by **Andrew Jackson**.

Rebecca Rolfe has started as a Research Fellow in the Developmental Biology research group, and part time teaching Fellow, in Zoology.

Paula Tierney, an alumnus of Zoology, has commenced postgraduate work with **Celia Holland** on the parasites of invasive fish funded by Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Catherine Rose, **Robbie Goodhue** and **Chris Nicholas** have been awarded iCrag grants to support PhD students.

Professor [Glenda Wardle](#), University of Sydney is visiting for 3 weeks in September to work with **Yvonne Buckley** on the data from the PLANTPOPNET global *Plantago lanceolata* demography data set.

The School has been awarded a Dean's Teaching Award for “Teaching Next-Generation Mapping with Unmanned Aerial Vehicles” – **which means we have a drone!**

Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme 2017: CALL NOW OPEN

<http://www.research.ie/scheme/government-ireland-postgraduate-scholarship-scheme-2017>

OUTREACH

Geology blog “On the Rocks” won SILVER in the Littlewoods Ireland Blog Awards 2016 in the category “Education and Science”. PhD student **Ann-Kristin Kalveram**'s blog on how geology is no longer restricted to the realm of rocks thanks to the mineral growing potential of plants was shortlisted in the “Best Blog Post” category.

SAVE THE DATE: “PROBE”, European Researchers Night, organised by the Science Gallery, will be on 30th September featuring several SNS researchers: 5-10pm in Front Square, TCD.

OTHER NEWS

Honeybees have arrived on campus as part of the TCD Campus Pollinator Plan and **Jane Stout**'s urban bee ecology research. The hive was donated and is maintained by Susie Bioletti (Conservationist in the Library), ably assisted by Marcus Phelan (Hazardous Materials).

School blogs:

[EcoEvo blog](#)

[Centre for the Environment](#)

[Geography – ‘PlanetGeog’](#)

[Geology – ‘On the rocks’](#)

[Botany – ‘botany@tcd’](#)

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