



ESAI ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

## ESAI Chairpersons Address from Liam McCarton

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**2021 was a busy year for the Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland (ESAI). This end of year report summarises some of the key events and activities throughout the year.**

**Environ 2021:** The highlight of the year was our Environmental Researchers Colloquium (Environ). The 2021 Environ conference was hosted in collaboration between the ESAI and the Environmental Research Institute (ERI) at University College Cork (UCC) from the 16th to 18th June. The theme of the conference was 'Healthy Planet, Healthy Communities'. This was our second "virtual" Environ building on our previous successful online event. In

2021 the ESAI and UCC joined forces with ExOrdo to deliver an exciting and engaging online conference experience. Registered delegates had access to a suite of conference tools which enabled them to participate in virtual workshops, engage with keynote and plenary speakers and liaise with researchers and industry practitioners across the country during icebreaker sessions. The goal was to deliver the full Environ experience from the comfort of your own home.

Environ 2021 officially opened on Wednesday 16th June with an opening address by UCC Interim College President Prof. John O'Halloran, ERI Director Prof. Sarah Culloty, Dr. Jonathan Derham, EPA and ESAI Chairperson Liam McCarton. Later in the day from 5pm-6.30pm there was a public event featuring a keynote from Kate Raworth (author of Doughnut Economics), environment economist focused on exploring the economic mindset needed to address the 21st century's social and ecological challenges & Roisin Markham, founder and network steward of the Irish Doughnut Economics Network. Several online events took place over the three days, including a variety of oral and poster presentations, plenary speakers and virtual social evenings. Environ culminated on Friday 18th with our prizegiving ceremony. The quality of research presented was exceptional. The fact that the vast majority were delivered by young scientists and engineers bodes well for the future of environmental sciences in Ireland. On behalf of all the team at ESAI we would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank Environ 2021 conference co-convenors Dr Jean O'Dwyer, Dr Timothy Sullivan, Dr Paul Bolger, Dr Aoife Corcoran and all the ERI team for hosting ENVIRON and for assembling a very comprehensive programme. We also wish to thank Ms Sinead Macken for providing excellent administrative support to the event as always. Congratulations to all the winners in the ESAI Environ Student Presentation competition which featured nine awards this year with a special mention to Molly Williams, and Adrian Delgado Ollero winner of the best oral presentation and best poster presentation respectively at Environ 2021.

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**2021 Nominee to the ESAI Honours List** : In 2020 as part of our 30 years celebrations we announced our first honours list. This is to acknowledge those who have contributed greatly to the success of ESAI and Environ and indeed have been at the forefront of environmental research, debate and policy in Ireland for over 30 years. In 2021 we nominated Professor Emer Collieran to the Honours List. Emer was a leading microbiologist and one of the State's foremost advocates for the environment, combining a radical energy with scientific discipline and expertise. She was known as a brilliant academic colleague and inspirational teacher and a mentor to a generation of students.

### ESAI Researcher Awards & Sponsorship Programs

At the heart of great science lies a creative and moral instinct to explore and to question in order to create a better world. ESAI continue to recognise the excellence of young researchers in this regard at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.



**Postgraduate Researcher of the Year Award:** Irene O'Callaghan from University College Cork is the 2021 winner of the prestigious ESAI Postgraduate Researcher of the Year Award. Irene's research is focused on the development of a technique to quantify freshwater contaminants by studying the natural process of bioaccumulation. This novel approach takes advantage of the natural process of bioaccumulation, by which fauna internalize and accumulate environmental chemicals. This research was funded by a joint Irish Research Council and EPA Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship, and supervised by Dr Timothy Sullivan, UCC.



**Undergraduate Researcher of the Year 2020/2021:** The ESAI continues to recognise the excellence of young researchers through our Undergraduate of the Year Awards. This is the 5th year of the competition. 2020-2021 Winners include: Victoria Decristoforo (Level 8, LIT), Jennifer Burke (DKIT), Aylis Emerit (GMIT), Robert Morrow (IT Sligo), Fay Clohessey (Level 8, MTU), Kate Mulligan (Level 7, MTU), Katy Beckett (TCD), Gavin Fowler (TU Dublin), Niall Murray (UL), Anna Kavanagh (Level 8, WIT), Zak Dunphy (Level 7, WIT), Sean Brennan (Level 8, IT Carlow), Shane O'Neill (Level 7, IT Carlow). Special thanks to Niamh Power for managing this on behalf of the ESAI.

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**ESAI / EPA Grassroots Award Scheme:** The ESAI / EPA Grassroots Award Scheme funded two live events which ran in tandem with a 10 week podcast series "Tales from the Land" each Saturday 7-9pm commencing June 4th 2021. Over ten weeks, Green Step engaged with different contributors to weave a vision for the future of Ireland. The two live events allowed for meetings with a wider group of people and discussions around Ireland's agri-food policy. The grassroots award scheme has been relaunched in 2022. Special thanks to the EPA for their continued support.

**ESAI College Liaison Officers & ESAI Postgraduate Network:** ESAI has a network of liaisons working in each of the HEI's that offer Environmental Science related courses. Their role is to promote specific ESAI's activities of relevance to students engaging in environmental science study within their organisation. We would also like to acknowledge all our ESAI Liaison officers. We are also offering free membership to all undergraduates in relevant courses in each college. During 2021 to further improve our engagement with the early-stage research community, the ESAI council formed a Postgraduate Network. The Postgraduate Network will work alongside the ESAI council to help bring together new and innovative ideas and concepts from ESAI stakeholders on how to improve our overall activities and spread the word of ESAI's awards and projects to the wider environmental science community.

**ESAI Communications:** ESAI members are the core of the organisation and special thanks to the comms team lead by John Gallagher, TCD for his outstanding work in managing the communications resources for our members. We welcome your input and participation through our social media channels whether through our Listserver, LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter or by subscribing to our Newsletters. At the end of 2021 the ESAI had 1086 members, comprising of 266 full members and 817 student members.

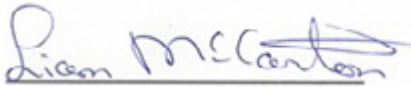
**ESAI Council Meetings and AGM June 2021:** The ESAI held a total of 4 council meetings during 2021. The AGM was convened online to coincide with Environ in June 2021. Members re-elected included Dr. Tasman Crowe, UCD, Dr. Tom Curran, UCD and Dr. Anne Morrissey, DCU. Postgrad of Year 2020 Sean O'Connor, IT Sligo joined us to give a short presentation on his research.

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The Council wish to sincerely thank ESAI administrator, Sinead Macken, for her excellent work, dedication and support over the past year with all our diverse activities. As chair of the ESAI I would also like to acknowledge the passion, professionalism and commitment of the entire ESAI council during the past year.

*ESAI will continue to adapt to national and global challenges and seek ways in which we can continue to serve our members and the wider the environmental community in Ireland though this coming year*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Liam McCarton". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

**Liam McCarton**, ESAI Chairperson

*Liam is a member of the Development Technology with the Community (DTC) Research Group at TU Dublin and Director of Engineers Without Borders Ireland.*

## Making the most of your membership

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### Benefits of Membership

By becoming a member of ESAI, you will also have access to:

- Discounted rates at Environ, the annual Irish Environmental Researchers Colloquium, one of the major activities of the Association. It is now one of the largest national scientific meetings in Ireland attracting over 300 delegates each year.
- Discounted rates for selected workshops, seminars, further education courses and conferences.
- Access to ESAI listserv
- Eligibility to apply for ESAI Postgraduate Researcher of the Year Award
- Eligibility to apply for ESAI Undergraduate Researcher of the Year Award
- Eligibility to apply for ESAI Grassroots Workshop Funding
- Learn from others and absorb best practice
- Raise the profile of you and your business
- Stimulate new business opportunities
- Innovate and commercialise new products and services
- Members of ESAI will receive free-of-charge E-Newsletters, Environews
- Sponsorship opportunities

### Handy Links For Staying Informed

- Find out more about ESAI Goals and Objectives  
<https://www.esaiweb.org/home/about-us/>
- Keeping in touch with the ESAI  
<https://www.esaiweb.org/stay-connected/>
- Further information on ESAI Code of Ethics and Constitution  
<https://www.esaiweb.org/home/our-policies/>

## 2021 Events

Date	Event
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ESAI Grassroots Workshop Support Scheme</b> Sponsored by EPA – Rolling Call
April 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ESAI Grassroots Workshop Support Scheme</b> Sponsored by EPA – Rolling Call
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>ESAI Environews Spring/Summer Edition available</b>
June	<b>ESAI Undergraduate of Year Awards 2019/2020</b> Review with HEI's commencesw
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Environ 2021 – 31st Annual Irish Environmental Researchers Colloquium</b>
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Environ 2021 – 31st Annual Irish Environmental Researchers Colloquium</b>
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ESAI AGM 2021</b> Online (held in conjunction with Environ 2021) All members welcome
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Environ 2021 – 31st Annual Irish Environmental Researchers Colloquium</b>
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ESAI Grassroots Workshop Support Scheme</b> Sponsored by EPA – Rolling Call
August 31 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ESAI Grassroots Workshop Support Scheme</b> Sponsored by EPA – Rolling Call
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Undergraduate Membership Offer</b> Free Membership for all Undergraduate Members Scheme Rolled Out
October 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ESAI Environews Autumn Edition available</b>
October 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>ESAI Grassroots Workshop Support Scheme</b> Sponsored by EPA – Rolling Call
October 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>ESAI Postgraduate Researcher of Year Award</b> Closing date for applications
November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>ESAI HEI nominated Undergraduate of Year 2019/2020</b> Announcements and presentation of certificates (by post)
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ESAI Environews Winter Edition available</b>
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>ESAI Grassroots Workshop Support Scheme</b> Sponsored by EPA – Rolling Call

## ESAI INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2021

ESAI Income and Expenditure Account	€	€
<b>For the year ended 31 December 2021</b>		<b>20,839</b>
<b>Opening balance as 01/01/21</b>		
Income	€	€
Membership	1,879	
Environ 2021 – Delegate Fee	20,511	
Environ 2021 - Sponsorship	20,000	
Environ 2020 – Delegate Fee	240	
Environ 2020 - Sponsorship	500	
Environ 2019 - Sponsorship	500	
Environ Prizes	2,250	
Rebate	2,125	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>45,525</b>	
Expenditure	€	€
Environ 2020	3,025	
Environ 2021	21,502	
Environ 2022	100	
Environ 2020 – Refunds	120	
Prizes	5,317	
Website Maintenance	4,307	
Administration	8,729	
Travel	0	
Bank Charge	869	
Merchant Banking	265	
Postage/Stationary	140	
Accountancy	191	
Postgraduate of Year Prize	0	
Governance	661	
Grassroots	0	
Other	50	
Write off	2	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>43,956</b>	
<b>Excess Income over Expenditure</b>		<b>1,569</b>
<b>Closing Balance @ 31/12/21</b>		<b>22,408</b>

End of Year accounts are overseen and approved by external accountant

## ESAI Council Members 2022

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**Chairperson** Mr Liam McCarton chairperson@esaiweb.org

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**Vice Chair** Dr Niamh Power

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**Honorary Secretary** Mr Philip Shine secretary@esaiweb.org

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**Honorary Treasurer** Dr Niamh Power treasurer@esaiweb.org

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**Communications Officer** Dr John Gallagher communications@esaiweb.org

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**Editor** Ms Caroline Wynne c.wynne@epa.ie

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**Conference Coordinator 2021** Dr Jean O'Dwyer conference@esaiweb.org

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**Regular Members**  
Prof Frances Lucy – IT Sligo  
Dr Thomae Kakouli-Duarte – IT Carlow  
Prof Tasman Crowe - UCD  
Dr Tom Curran - UCD  
Dr Dorothy Stewart - EPA  
Ms Caroline Wynne  
Dr Anne Morrissey - DCU

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**Membership Officer** c/o Ms Sinead Macken - Administrator administrator@esaiweb.org

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