



ESAI Annual Review 2016

ESAI Chairpersons Address from Dr. Frances Lucy



The ESAI has been involved in a number of activities over the past year since Environ 2016, both in terms of events and planning for the future. The highlights are as follows:

- Environ 2016 - 26th Irish Environmental Researchers Colloquium hosted by University of Limerick, March 24th-26th
- ESAI Postgraduate Researcher of the Year Award
- ESAI Grassroots Workshop competition
- 'Where there is No Engineer' design initiative
- DTC Research Group in DIT now has ESAI as a partner

We had a large attendance at Environ 2016 and this is reported separately. I would like to acknowledge Dr Ronan Courtney, Dr. Audrey O'Grady and Dr. Ken Byrne and their team for hosting Environ 2016 at UL. The colloquium in Limerick was a big success and extremely well organised. The theme for Environ 2016 was 'Ecosystem Services for a Sustainable Future'.

Thanks to Dr Liam McCarton and Dr Niamh Power for co-ordinating the "ESAI Postgraduate Researcher of the Year Award". The applications from postgraduates were evaluated according to the criteria: [1] Scientific excellence and originality; [2] Impact (economic/environmental/societal) and; [3] Dissemination (conferences, outreach, media). Congratulations to the winner Christopher Finnegan, a PhD student in the third year of his research in enviroCORE, the Centre of Research and Enterprise in the Institute of Technology Carlow. Christopher's project is entitled "Bioremediation of tributyltin (TBT) in Irish marine sediments: microbial screening and process optimisation". Please come along to his see Christopher present his research at the ESAI AGM on Tuesday April 11th at 5.30pm.

One of our major initiatives in the past two year is to reach out to colleges more than we have done in the past. As part of this, we are fortunate to have an ESAI Liaison in each college. These staff members act as a contact point for ESAI activities and information flow. We are also offering free membership to all undergraduates in relevant courses in each college. The list of third level environmental education programmes on our web site has been updated as part of this process. We hope that this approach will facilitate more sustainable engagement with students and in particular will raise awareness and stimulate interest in environmental research. We have been encouraged by the growing number of non-research based students (e.g. taught Masters) attending Environ over the past few years and we would anticipate that this trend may extend further to undergraduate students through this process.

Another recent development is that we are reviewing our aims and objectives at the core of the ESAI. It is healthy that we should question how we serve our members and our ability to do things better or differently. Perhaps the focus needs to be moved more explicitly to a research agenda as many of our members are involved in this area. Furthermore our membership is also quite diverse in terms of discipline, which is a great strength of the organisation. We are depending on the voluntary efforts of our members, so we must be cognisant of what is possible to achieve effectively. As always, we welcome your input. Remember to keep in touch with ESAI through social media on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. We produce a bi-annual newsletter [mail chimp] to keep you up to date with our activities and your participation in ESAI. The ESAI listserver continues to be very effective in terms of spreading news on events and jobs to our network.

A key ESAI meeting was held in June 2016 to decide on future strategy. We would like to be the association of choice for environmental researchers on the island of Ireland. We also aim to provide the best networking opportunities for environmental science research. This year the ESAI committed to developing a Governance Code for the ESAI and will be developing this during 2017. This will be reporting on in next year's report.

The Grassroots Workshop Support Scheme was established in 2016 to assist researchers, particularly postgrads and postdocs at hosting specialist workshops. We are grateful to the EPA for providing funds for four workshops in 2016-2017, which have been administered by the ESAI. The workshops have been very successful in terms of research and outreach for citizen science. Since Environ 2016 we have had two winners in this scheme, David Kelleghan [UCD]: 'Nitrogenous pollutants in the atmosphere' workshop and Gill Weyman [UCC]: 'Ladybirds and Citizen Science' workshop. The aim is to continue this scheme in 2017.

"Where there is no Engineer" is a design initiative funded by Irish Aid and delivered in partnership with DIT, Concern Worldwide, Engineers Ireland, Engineers without Borders Ireland and ESAI. ESAI Researchers who think their work may have an application within a developing country are invited to enter the competition. Research is grouped under six global themes; Climate Resilient Infrastructure, Self Supply Water and Sanitation, Health, Energy Systems, Food Security, Applying Big Data in the Community. This year's competition will focus on Nepal, working with the communities affected by both long term development problems and the recent devastating earthquake. Selected entrants will be invited to participate in the National Finals where they get the opportunity to pitch their research in a dragons den style format. The winning team will be awarded a "Davies Travel Scholarship" to travel to Nepal to work with Concern and EWB. Four research concepts will also be selected for funding under our "Arup Trust Innovation Award". This will fund researchers who need to further testing to develop their concept to a practical stage. This is an opportunity for researchers to bring their research into a practical real world environment. Anyone interested to apply can discuss further at the environ conference or email liam.mccarton@dit.ie for more information.

On the ESAI Council front, we are actively seeking new members for the council to get involved in a range of new and existing activities. This is a great experience for both early stage [PhD and Post Doc] and more mature researchers and also research supervisors. Please attend the ESAI AGM on April 11th at 5.30pm if you wish to become involved.

On behalf of the ESAI, I wish to say a sincere thanks to members of the Council who are stepping down from their roles including Emer Cosgrove [Honorary Treasurer], Mark Nolan [Communications], Dr. Noreen Layden, Dr Ronan Courtney, and Dr. Yvonne Lang [Early Stage Researcher representative]. I would also like to thank my predecessor Dr. Tom Curran for his leadership as chair of the ESAI council from 2014-2016 and also for his continued guidance.

The Council wish to thank ESAI administrator, Sinead Macken, for her excellent trojan work, dedication and support over the past year with all our diverse activities.

Best wishes to all for research in the year ahead.

Dr Frances Lucy is Head of Department of Environmental Science at IT Sligo. She has been on ESAI Council since 2013 and was the convenor at the 2015 ENVIRON in IT Sligo.

ESAI Goals and Objectives 2016

The ESAI (Environmental Science Association of Ireland), founded in 1995, as a not for profit organisation. The membership is drawn from all sectors and disciplines, ranging from biology and ecology to engineering, hydrology and management and from professors to amateur naturalists. The goals and objectives of the organisation are to:

- Provide a forum to facilitate exchange of specialist information and advice amongst environmental researchers, policy makers, environmental management practitioners and other stakeholders, within Ireland and elsewhere.
- Promote a fuller awareness of the role that higher-level education institutions may make in finding solutions for the urgent environmental problems confronting contemporary society.
- Provide a forum for networking amongst environmental researchers both at national and international scales.
- Facilitate an annual conference aimed at providing postgraduate and other researchers with an opportunity to learn about each other's work, and for postgraduates to present and publish papers within a supportive community.
- Promote high professional standards amongst environmental researchers and professionals.
- To ensure a platform for science-based research on the environment in Ireland.
- Provide a Code of Ethics for Environmental Professionals in Ireland through its membership.
- To maintain growth in the membership base.



Lough Gill: photo Frances Lucy

Membership

Make the most of your Membership

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 listserver
- Eligibility to apply for ESAI Postgraduate 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

Raise your Profile

- Members of ESAI will receive free-of-charge E-Newsletters, Environews.
- Sponsorship opportunities

Keeping you informed

The ESAI website (www.esaiweb.org) is kept up to date with the latest news from the association about our upcoming events, competitions and funding opportunities.

We circulate a quarterly newsletter summarising our work throughout the year. We also coordinate an email Listserver, which facilitates a community of over 2,300 subscribers to exchange information about environmental events and career opportunities in Ireland. To sign up to these services, please visit our website.

We are also very active on a number of social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.



http://twitter.com/esai_environ



<http://www.facebook.com/esaiweb>



<http://www.linkedin.com/in/esaiweb>

Contact Details

ESAI Chairperson

Dr Frances Lucy, Dept. of Environmental Science, Institute of Technology Sligo, Ash Lane, Sligo

Email: Chairperson@esaiweb.org

Tel: +353 (071) 9155284

Website: www.esaiweb.org

ESAI Administrator

Ms Sinead Macken, Stonehaven, Moy Road, Kinvara, Co. Galway.

Email: administrator@esaiweb.org

Tel: +353 (0) 86 8071498

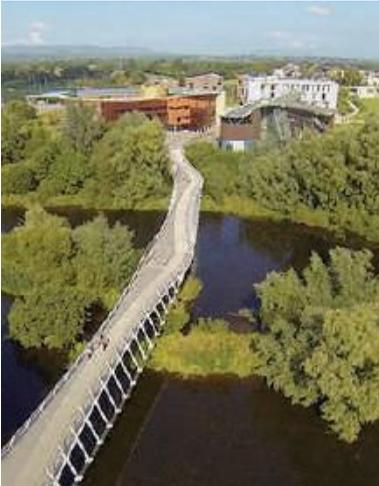
Website: www.esaiweb.org

2016 Events

Date	Event
Jan 1 st	ESAI Grassroots Workshop Support Scheme Rolling Call
February 2 nd	ESAI Winner Leave No Trace Competition - Sarah McNerney One Day Workshop Outdoor Awareness Training, Dublin
February 29 th	ESAI Grassroots Workshop Support Scheme Rolling Call
March 22 nd - 24 th 2016	Annual Conference Environ 2016 co-hosted by University of Limerick 26 th Annual Irish Environmental Researchers Colloquium, University of Limerick, Limerick
March 22 nd	Workshop @ Environ 2016 14:00-17:00 R: Facilitating reproducible statistical analysis in the Environmental Sciences University of Limerick
March 22 nd	Workshop @ Environ 2016 14:00-17:00 Maximising and Assessing Research Impact University of Limerick
March 22 nd	Workshop @ Environ 2016 14:00-17:00 The UL Green Campus Journey University of Limerick
March 23 rd	Launch ESAI Postgraduate Researcher of the Year Award Launch
March 23 rd	ESAI AGM 17:40-18:10, University of Limerick All members welcome
March 24 th	ESAI Student Competition Prize Giving Ceremony
April 21 st	Conference Water Ireland Conference & Exhibition 2016 15% Discount for ESAI Members
April 30 th	ESAI Grassroots Workshop Support Scheme Rolling Call
August	ESAI Environews Summer Edition available online www.esaiweb.org
August 31 st	ESAI Postgraduate Researcher of the Year Competition Winner Announced Christopher Finnegan - IT Carlow
August 31 st	ESAI Grassroots Workshop Support Scheme Rolling Call
Sept 1 st	Free Membership for Undergraduate Members Roll Out
October 31 st	ESAI Grassroots Workshop Support Scheme Rolling Call
November	ESAI Environews Winter Edition available online www.esaiweb.org
December 31 st	ESAI Grassroots Workshop Support Scheme Rolling Call

Environ 2016

Environ 2016



The 26th Irish Environmental Researchers' Colloquium, ENVIRON 2016, was held at University of Limerick, from Tuesday to Thursday 22nd-24th March, 2016.

The ENVIRON colloquium is the longest running and largest annual gathering of environmental researchers in Ireland, with over 270 delegates attending this year. The event continues to provide a platform for postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers to exchange information on their most up-to-date findings with a large and diverse audience made up of academics, industry members and policy makers.

The theme of this year's colloquium '**Ecosystem Services for a Sustainable Future**' stimulated consideration of how current research informs this theme and the development

of sustainable policies for future generations.

The University of Limerick previously hosted the 7th and 14th ENVIRON in 1997 and 2004 respectively and the Department of Life Sciences, Faculty of Science and Engineering were very pleased to welcome the colloquium back to Limerick in 2016. 2015 saw the launch of the The Bernal Project, a €52 million strategic investment in research excellence, at the University of Limerick. The role of environmental sciences in the collaborative and cross-disciplinary teaching and research in Environment, Engineering and Energy are important foci of this new project and will continue the long standing record UL has established in these disciplines including Faculty representation in the UN Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

The University of Limerick was named 'University of the Year 2015' in the Sunday Times Good University Guide. Other recent achievements include the University receiving the prestigious Athena SWAN Institution award. This recognises and celebrates good practice in recruiting, retaining and promoting women in STEMM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine) in higher education. UL is a recent recipient of the internationally recognised Green Flag by An Taisce's Green-Campus programme. This is an international environmental education and award scheme that promotes long term, whole college action for the environment. Significant initiatives and advances in the areas of Energy Conservation, Biodiversity and Travel and Transport have been incorporated into campus life.

The conference began on Tuesday 22nd March, 2015 with three education and training workshops on offer to delegates: 'Facilitating reproducible statistical analysis in the Environmental Sciences' (Dr Coilin Minto, GMIT), 'Maximising and Assessing Research Impact' (Dr Fintan Bracken, UL) and The UL Green Campus Journey (UL Green Campus Committee in conjunction with Leave No Trace). All workshops were well attended and the feedback was very positive from those that engaged with them.



Environ 2016 opened on the evening of 22nd March with a public lecture by author and journalist Paddy Woodworth entitled 'Pricing the Planet: The economic and environmental benefits of accounting for natural capital and ecosystem services'. This talk was well attended with interest from not only to environmental science researchers but also members of the public and other stakeholders.



The colloquium was formally opened on the morning of Wednesday 23rd February by Professor Don Barry, President of UL followed by four keynote speakers from academia and industry: Prof John O'Halloran (University College Cork), Ms Katy Tsemmelis (Manager of the International Aluminium Institute), Prof Dave Goulson (University of Sussex) and Mr Michael Fennell (Rusal Aughinish). This stimulated discussion on the need to enhance and sustain ecosystem services which striving to maintain socio-economic progress.



Four concurrent sessions were held on Wednesday and Thursday morning. These session spanned 11 environmental topic areas, with a total of 92 oral presentations including a new theme in the Environ series, Novel applications in sustainability and research innovation. There were also 62 posters on display, covering a spectrum of sessions displayed alongside a wide range of exhibitors from environmental agencies, organisations and suppliers. On the Wednesday night, the social event was held in the Clarion Hotel with over 180 delegates in attendance.



The conference closed on Thursday with a prize giving ceremony awarding €1750 of sponsored prizes to six delegates for excellence in presenting in their field. Student Competition: Six awards for excellence in presentation: ESAI Best Overall Oral Presentation went to Daryl Gunning, UCC for his talk entitled 'Commercial and experimental scale IMTA research'. ESAI Best Overall Poster Presentation was awarded to Paul Buckley, UCC with his poster entitled 'Sources of particulate matter in small rural towns in Ireland'. Best Water Based Presentation

was presented to Derek Higgins, University of Limerick, for his talk 'Use of constructed wetlands to treat alkaline leachates'. Best Waste and Resource Management Presentation was given to Tom Wallace, UCD, for his talk 'Review of fat, oil and grease (fog) waste utilisation trends'. Best Soils Presentation went to Israel Ikoyi, University of Limerick for his talk 'Influence of different rates of inorganic phosphorus fertilizer on soil biological properties in a soil-biota system'. Finally Best Biodiversity Presentation went to Tara Dirilgen, UCD for her presentation entitled 'What controls the abundance and diversity of soil animals? - a manipulation study using mesocosms in a controlled laboratory setting'.

A post event survey filled in by 27% of attendees indicated very high levels of satisfaction with the event. Again ENVIRON2016, proved to be a great opportunity for the 270 delegates to network with fellow researchers, and with industry, agencies and policy makers. We hope this continues to inspire them to think 'outside the box', to explore global research trends and technologies in search of a cross disciplinary vision.

Many thanks to all involved at University of Limerick, including the postgraduates, organising committee, IT Services, building office and administration. We are extremely grateful for the continued sponsorship of Environ by all sponsors, but especially by the EPA whose support is invaluable.

ESAI INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

ESAI INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		
For the year ended 31 December 2016		
	€	€
Opening balance as 01/01/16		6,175.80
Income		
Membership	3,043.46	
Environ 2015 - Delegate Fee	110.00	
Environ 2016 - Delegate Fee	26,845.00	
Sponsorship	18,600.00	
Environ 2016 Prizes	1,500.00	
Environ 2017 Sponsorship	3,350.00	
IPS Repayment	660.00	
Total Income	54,108.46	
Expenditure		
Environ 2016 (inc prizes)	31,183.82	
Environ 2017	2,459.82	
Environ 2016 Refunds	1,175.00	

Website	1,589.49	
Administration	6,989.00	
Travel	473.13	
Postage/Stationary	26.16	
Bank Charges (inc. Merchant banking)	1,767.15	
Insurance	1,002.87	
Workshop Grassroots	900.00	
Governance	150.00	
Postgrad Prize	500.00	
Accountancy	196.80	
Total Expenditure	48,413.24	
Excess Income over Expenditure		5,695.22
Closing Balance per Bank @ 31/12/16		11,871.02
*The balance includes the		
Biodiversity Workshop 2000 surplus of €1,982.56		

Chairperson	Regular Members
Dr Frances Lucy	
Email: chairperson@esaiweb.org	Dr Noreen Layden
Honorary Secretary	Dr Thomas Curran
Dr Kevin Ryan	
Email: secretary@esaiweb.org	Dr Dorothy Stewart
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Declan Feeney
Ms Emer Cosgrove	
Email: treasurer@esaiweb.org	Dr Niamh Power
Communications Officer	Mr Liam McCarton
Mr Mark Nolan	
Email: communications@esaiweb.org	
Editor	Membership Officer
Dr Yvonne Lang	c/o Ms Sinead Macken / Administrator
Email: lang.yvonne@itsligo.ie	Email: administrator@esaiweb.org
Early Stage Researcher Representative	Webmaster
Dr Yvonne Lang	c/o Dr Adrian Corcoran / Attik Designs
Email: lang.yvonne@itsligo.ie	Email: webmaster@esaiweb.org
Conference Coordinator 2018	
Dr Joe Harrington	
Email: joe.harrington@cit.ie	
Conference Coordinator 2017	
Dr Andy Fogarty	
Email: conference@esaiweb.org	
Conference Coordinator 2016	
Dr Ronan Courtney	
Email: ronan.courtney@ul.ie	