Dr. Conor O'Driscoll

Department of Economic Geography, Faculty of Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

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Personal Profile

Assistant Professor in The University of Groningen's Department of Economic Geography. Main fields of interest include Economic Geography, Regional Science, Urban Economics, and Transportation Science. Proficient in spatial analysis which employs advanced econometric techniques (STATA, QGIS, and R).

Professional Experience

Assistant Professor in Economic Geography — Oct 2023 –
Department of Economic Geography — *University of Groningen, Netherlands*

University Teacher and Expert Researcher in Economics — Oct 2020 – Oct 2023
Department of Economics — *University College Cork, Ireland*

Teaching and Managerial Functions

Managerial and Leadership Experience

- **2026–:** Deputy Director of the Erasmus-Mundus Joint Research Master Programme *Islands and Sustainability*.
- **2026–:** Programme coordinator of the Research Master in Spatial Sciences at the University of Groningen.
- **2026–:** Member of the *Young Academy of Groningen*.
- **2025–:** Regular member of the *FSS Faculty Council* at the University of Groningen.
- **2025–:** MSc Economic Geography and Real Estate Studies *Programme Committee Chair* (University of Groningen).
- **2024–:** Course coordinator: *Economic Geography: Theory and Practice* (MSc) and *Statistics II* (BSc) (University of Groningen).

Teaching Experience

- **2023–:** Economic Geography (BSc & MSc); Introductory and Intermediate Statistics (BSc); Research Methods for Geographers and Planners (BSc).
- **2020-2023:** Data Analysis in Economics and Business (BA & BComm); Introductory & Intermediate Micro- and Macro-economics (BSc, BComm & BA); Social, Labour, and Monetary Economics (BComm & BA).

Research Supervision

- **PhD Students:** Inês Campello (2025-2029); Lorcan Kelly (2026-2030).
- **MSc Supervision:** MSc in Economic Geography (4 Students); MSc in Real Estate Studies (4 Students).
- **BSc Supervision:** BSc in Human Geography and Planning / Spatial Planning and Design (20 students).

Education

PhD in Economics — Oct 2020 – June 2023
Department of Economics — *University College Cork, Ireland*

- **Dissertation Title:** *Urban Sprawl: Land-Use, Travel Behaviours, and Emissions in Ireland.*
- **Supervisors:** Prof. Justin Doran, Dr. Frank Crowley, Dr. Nóirín McCarthy.
- **Thesis Committee:** Prof. Aisling Reynolds-Feighan, Dr. John Eakins, and Dr. Edward Lahiff.

BA: Economics and History — Sept 2017 – Sept 2020
University College Cork — *Cork, Ireland*

Awards and Honours

Invited Keynote Speaker — RSAI-BIS Annual Conference
Regional Science Association International: British & Irish Section — *June 2025*

Postgraduate Researcher of The Year, 2021-2022 — College of Business and Law
College of Business and Law, University College Cork — *December 2023*

Best Paper by an Early Career Researcher — RSAI-BIS Early Career Colloquium
Regional Science Association International: British & Irish Section — *November 2022*

Grants and Funding Awards

2026: *Horizon Europe*. JUSTPLACE: JUSTice and Participation through LocAlised and Citizen-centred Engagement - Redesigning democracy through people-in-places territorial strategies (**€413,750**).

2025: *Regional Studies Association (Early Career Grant)*. What does it mean to be stuck in place? (**€12,500**).

2025: *NVO Starter Grant*. AI and the new geography of work (**€350,000**) (w/ Femke Cnossen and Sierdjan Koster).

2020-2023: *UCC Department of Economics*. PhD Conference and Travel Bursary (**€2,000**).

Affiliations and Service

Society Affiliations and Memberships

- **Research Affiliate at the** Rudolf Agricola School for Sustainable Development (Groningen, 2025–); Urban and Regional Studies Institute (Groningen, 2023–); Spatial and Regional Economic Research Centre (Cork, 2020–).
- **Active member of the** Regional Science Association International (British & Irish and Dutch Section, 2020–); Regional Studies Association (2023–); World Society of Transport and Land-Use Research (2025–).

Professional Service

- **Chief Editor** of *The Boolean* journal (2021-2023).
- **Expert Peer-Reviewer For** Spatial Economic Analysis, Transportation Research (Part A, Part D, and Interdisciplinary Perspectives), Journal of Transport Geography, Journal of Transport and Land-Use, Journal of Geographical Systems, Urban Climate, Journal of Urban Planning and Development, and Transportation Planning and Technology.

Publication Record

Working Papers

Residential Relocation Decisions and Destinations: The Role of Working From Home (w/ Federica Rossi). *Major Revisions requested in Regional Studies*.
What Does It Mean To Be Stuck In Place? (w/ Leonie Frantzen). *Under Review in Regional Studies, Regional Science*.
Where Institutions Fail: Corruption and the Territorial Foundations of Distrust in Europe (w/ Luise Koeppen).
The Corruption of Popular Democracy (w/ Luise Koeppen).
Moving away or Bound to Stay: How Aspirations and Capabilities Shape (In)voluntary Residential Immobility (w/ Leonie Frantzen).
Does mortgage borrowing increase urban house prices? Evidence from the Netherlands (w/ Dirk Bezemer).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

2025: Navigating Change: Residential Relocation, Travel Behaviours, and Built Environments. *Papers in Regional Science*.
2025: Travel Behaviours and Built Environments on School-Runs. *Regional Science Policy and Practice* (w/ Frank Crowley; Justin Doran; Nóirín McCarthy; Josh O'Driscoll).
2024: Assessing Modal Tradeoffs and Associated Built Environment Characteristics Using a Cost-Distance Framework. *Journal of Transport Geography* (w/ Kevin Credit).
2024: The relationships between socio-demographics, residential environments, travel considerations, and commute mode choice in Ireland. *Regional Studies* (w/ Frank Crowley; Justin Doran; Nóirín McCarthy).
2023: Land-Use Mix in Ireland: Implications for Sustainable Development. *Journal of Maps* (w/ Frank Crowley; Justin Doran; Nóirín McCarthy).
2023: Land-Use Mixing in Irish Cities: Implications for Sustainable Development. *Land Use Policy* (w/ Frank Crowley; Justin Doran; Nóirín McCarthy).
2022: Retail Sprawl and CO2 Emissions: Retail Centres in Irish Cities. *Journal of Transport Geography* (w/ Frank Crowley; Justin Doran; Nóirín McCarthy).

Industry and Policy Reports

2022: "Innovating in Ireland: Can We Fail Better?" (w/ Jane Bourke, Josh O'Driscoll, and Páidí O'Reilly). *Cork University Business School*.

Press Coverage and Popular Writings

2025: Planning for Real Lives: Accessibility, Life Events, and the Path to Low-Carbon Commuting. *Regional Studies Association Blog*.
2024: The Cost of Morning Commutes: The Case of Kildare. *Kildare FM*.
2024: Here's the real cost of your morning rush hour commute in Dublin. *RTE Brainstorm* (w/ Kevin Credit).

2023: How the relationship between socio-demographics, residential environments and travel influence commuter choices. *Regional Studies Blog* (w/ rank Crowley; Justin Doran; Nóirín McCarthy).
2023: Retail Centre Locations in Cork: The Case of Carrigtwohill. *RTE Prime Time*.
2022: Planning For Sustainability: Future Retail Centre Locations. *The Boolean* (w/ Frank Crowley; Justin Doran; Nóirín McCarthy).
2022: The Links Between Where We Live and How We Commute. *RTE Brainstorm* (w/ Frank Crowley; Justin Doran; Nóirín McCarthy).
2022: Does fear of failure hamper Irish business innovation?. *RTE Brainstorm* (w/ Jane Bourke and Josh O'Driscoll).
2021: Why out of town retail parks don't make sense in a climate crisis. *RTE Brainstorm*.
2021: Shopping Malls, GHG Emissions and The Role of Policymakers in "Green" Transportation Infrastructure in Ireland. *Regional Studies Association: Student Summer Series*.

Main Conferences and Workshops

2027: The Regional Science Association International: British and Irish Section (**Scheduled**); The 65th European Regional Science Association (ERSA) Congress (**Scheduled**); The Regional Studies Association Annual Conference (**Scheduled**).
2026: BeNeLux Geography Conference; the Regional Science Association International: British and Irish Section; the 65th European Regional Science Association (ERSA) Congress.
2025: Regional Science Association International: British and Irish Section; the 64th European Regional Science Association (ERSA) Congress.
2024: Regional Studies Association: Irish Section; Regional Science Association International: British and Irish Section.
2023: Regional Science Association International: British and Irish Section; Cork University Business School Postgraduate Symposium.
2022: Regional Science Association International: British and Irish Section; Cork University Business School Postgraduate Symposium.
2021: Conference of Irish Geographers; Regional Science Association International: British and Irish Section (**Organising Committee Member**); Cork University Business School Postgraduate Symposium; UCC Spatial and Economic Research Centre Lunchtime Speaker Series; The North American Meetings of The Regional Science Association.

References

Professor Justin Doran: Primary PhD Supervisor and Head of UCC's Department of Economics.
Email: Justin.Doran@ucc.ie.
Professor Sierdjan Koster: Head of RUG's Department of Economic Geography. Email: sierdjan.koster@rug.nl.
Professor Frank Crowley: Secondary PhD Supervisor and Professor in UCC's Department of Economics. Email: Frank.Crowley@ucc.ie.
Dr. Viktor Venhorst: Associate Professor in RUG's Department of Economic Geography. Email: v.a.venhorst@rug.nl.