

# 20th November: Bringing it all together; A transdisciplinary endeavor

University College Cork Centre for Adult Continuing Education Seminar Series

Final Session, 20 November 2012



## Venue:

Room 122, Brookfield Health Sciences Complex,  
UCC, College Road, Cork.

## Fee:

Free, open to all

## Time/Dates:

The final session of the Sustainability & Modern Society  
Series will take place on Tuesday 20th November 2012  
(7-9pm, Room 122 BHSC).

The session is entitled '*Bringing it all together;  
A transdisciplinary endeavor*'. It is proposed that this  
session will reflect on the transdisciplinary nature that is

required for transformational change and ponder some  
possible future directions as we grapple with how to move  
from our current unsustainable societal construct.

The session format will comprise two sections which  
respectively relate to the twin aims of the series of:

1. Engaging with the wider public/s locally on issues  
around sustainability
2. Developing transdisciplinary conversations and  
competencies around issues of sustainability in particular  
among the UCC (and extended) academic community

## 1. ATTENDEE REFLECTIONS

The first part (hour) will involve a reflection on the series  
which will provide attendees at the final session with  
opportunity to provide a **formal 5 minute prepared  
reflection (800 word maximum)**.

Participants may if they wish, provide an accompanying  
800 word (ca. 1-2 page) text and/or (maximum) 3 slide  
Powerpoint presentation for publication on the series  
website (<http://www.ucc.ie/processeng/sustainability/>)

The text or slides accompanying each prepared formal  
reflection can then be added to the seminar series website  
along with the other presentations as a record of the work if  
the participant chooses.

The formal presentations will be followed by a **general  
round table discussion** among all participants and  
presenters of the series and the issues that arose, including  
in the participants reflections.

Interested participants should email Edmond Byrne  
([e.byrne@ucc.ie](mailto:e.byrne@ucc.ie)) or Ger Mullally ([g.mullally@ucc.ie](mailto:g.mullally@ucc.ie)) not  
later than **Monday 19th November** indicating a desire to  
present a formal prepared reflection.

*'The solutions of modernity, it's very engines of progress, seem in many cases to have become the problems of postnormal times.*

*Creativity and imagination will be essential to envisioning and developing alternatives to the systems, structures,  
and processes that are presently failing us. But if the urgency and importance of creativity are clear,*

*in education creativity is mostly conspicuous by its absence.'*

*Alfonso Montuori, 2012*





Notes:

## 2. LOOKING FORWARD

The second part (hour) of the evening will focus on looking forward across the university: On **how this series integrates and forms part of a process with a number of other sustainability related initiatives across the university.**

This section will be primed by two short talks/presentations by **Dr Kieran Keohane** (Sociology) and **Dr Colin Sage** (Geography) (each ca. 15 mins long) who will provide some reflections from their own areas as well as outline some initiative that they are involved in at present.

This will be followed by a discussion which will be of particular interest to academics with an interest in developing academic work related to these issues right across the university.



**ucc**

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*'All the way through this process [of transition] "innovation" will be taking place - but it will be changing its character dramatically. Increasingly the focus of innovation will not be optimising and growing output but innovation strategies to increase not labour productivity but materials and energy efficiency and then, increasingly innovation focused on resilience, innovation focused on reducing risks, or simply surviving. I don't doubt too that there will be "innovation" in the psycho-social domain.'*

Brian Davey, 2011