

Deep Maps

WEST CORK COASTAL CULTURES

Introduction

The project investigates the biological, cultural and historical context of the south west coast of Ireland from 1700 to 1920. The focus is on the rich maritime environment that is found along the arc of Cork's Roaring Water Bay, from Clonakilty to Bantry Bay, as it is shaped by sea and land and as it is imagined within 18th -19th century cultural texts. The period to be researched begins with the emergence of wide-ranging antiquarian inquiries and poetic responses to the Cork coast and ends with the start of serious biological field research in this area.



Central Research Questions

- How can interdisciplinary research deepen knowledge of the heritage of European coastal and maritime regions via a focus on this particular stretch of coastline along the Roaring Water Bay in south-west Cork?
- What can literary, cultural and visual representations of this coastline tell us about the origins of environmentalism in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries?
- How can the interests of multiple stakeholders be integrated to influence the health and sustainability of maritime areas?
- What questions emerge from eighteenth and nineteenth century representations of coastal environments and how can they inform contemporary environmental priorities?

Methodology

The project develops an approach to coastal environments that works across and between three main kinds of knowledge associated with deeply storied and environmentally rich places. These are:

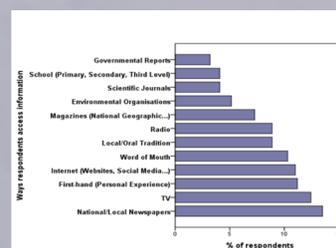
- the current state of scientific knowledge about the marine environment
- the particular forms of experience, imagery and point of view embedded in literary, cultural and visual representations of place
- local and community stakeholder knowledge

Archival Research

The humanities component of this project explores historical, literary and visual sources from 1700 -1920. These include statistical surveys, travel literature, art-historical and cartographic materials.

Scientific Research

In order to assess stakeholder knowledge about the marine environment and to communicate this information along with the project findings, we will implement a series of quantitative/qualitative assessments and workshop/outreach programmes in a subset of sites within the study area.



An example of survey results

Research Outcomes

Dissemination of the project is based on an open access ethos utilising standard digital archiving tools and spatial-temporal visual narratives.

Archive

An open access archive will be implemented to host the emerging cultural data. Literature, photographs, tales, and sketches will be curated via this sensitive and flexible method that combines a spatial layered approach with a narrative focus.

Visualisation

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) will be used to visualize the relationships between space, place and time in a spatial-temporal visualisation that will comprehensively integrate maps, statistical trends, scientific knowledge, and historical information.



Project Team

Principal Investigators:

- Prof. Claire Connolly (School of English, University College Cork)
- Dr. Rob McAllen (School of Biological, Environmental and Earth Sciences, University College Cork)

Research Assistants:

- Breda Moriarty, Orla-Peach Power, Dr. Michael Waldron, Rachel Murphy, Seán MacGabhann