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Communicating Research for Impact: ATU Research Commentary Series

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Communicating Research for Impact: ATU Research Commentary Series

This publication was produced under the RISE@ATU programme as part of the research communications, dissemination and exploitation (C,D&E) remit of the Research Coordinator function at Atlantic Technological University (ATU), in collaboration with the ATU Communications Office, Aidan Haughey and Jorden McMenamin, and with the support of RISE@ATU Project Manager, Dr Eileen Gillen. Editorial coordination, content development, design and compilation of the booklet were undertaken by Dr Shane Conway.



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What is a Research Commentary?

Research commentaries are concise, accessible articles that communicate the significance, relevance and potential impact of research to audiences beyond academia. Informed by peer-reviewed, accepted or funded research, they provide researchers with an opportunity to explain the context, key insights and wider implications of their work in a clear and engaging format. By translating research into accessible, outward-facing narratives, research commentaries support knowledge mobilisation, public engagement and evidence-informed decision-making, while enhancing the visibility, accessibility and societal relevance of research.

June 2026

The views expressed within individual research commentaries are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of RISE@ATU.

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Atlantic Technological University (ATU) is pleased to present the first compilation of the ATU Research Commentary Series. Developed under **RISE@ATU** and established as part of the research communications, dissemination and exploitation activities of the Research Coordinator function, in collaboration with the ATU Communications Office, the series aims to strengthen the visibility, accessibility and strategic communication of research across the University.

As research activity continues to grow across ATU's four faculties and nine campuses, there is an increasing need for dissemination formats that complement traditional peer-reviewed publication. While academic journals remain central to scholarly communication and are essential for advancing knowledge, there is growing recognition that research findings should also be communicated, translated and mobilised beyond academia for the benefit of policy, practice and society. This expectation is increasingly reflected by research funders and institutions, including the **European Research Executive Agency (REA)**, which place growing emphasis on research impact, knowledge mobilisation and evidence-informed decision-making. The ATU Research Commentary Series responds to this evolving landscape by providing researchers with a platform to communicate the significance, relevance and potential impact of their work in a clear, structured and engaging format, while maintaining academic integrity and researcher voice.

To further support visibility, accessibility and long-term discoverability, each commentary is assigned a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) through **Zenodo**, the European Commission-supported open-access research repository. This creates a permanent and citable record that supports research dissemination, impact reporting and knowledge mobilisation activities. Contributors are also linked through their **ATU PURE Profile**, providing a direct pathway to their broader research portfolio, associated outputs, and **ORCID ID**.

This booklet brings together the first ten Research Commentaries produced as part of the ATU Research Commentary Series during the 2025/2026 academic year. Collectively, these contributions showcase the breadth, diversity and growing impact of research taking place across the University. The featured commentaries span topics including artificial intelligence, healthcare, nutrition, coastal sustainability, social innovation, rural development and community wellbeing, demonstrating how ATU researchers are generating new knowledge, addressing societal challenges and contributing to regional, national and international priorities.

The series provides an important dissemination layer within ATU's research ecosystem, complementing traditional academic publication while supporting wider media, policy and public engagement activities. It provides researchers with an opportunity to contextualise their work, explain why it matters and demonstrate its relevance beyond specialist audiences. The commentaries also demonstrate strong alignment with the sectoral strengths and opportunities for the North-West Region identified within **Ireland's Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3)**, while contributing to several **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

While each article reflects the expertise and perspective of an individual researcher, together they tell a broader story about ATU's evolving research culture and ambition. They highlight the University's commitment to applied, engaged and impactful research, while illustrating the important role that effective research communication plays in ensuring that knowledge reaches and benefits those who can use it. We hope this collection provides an accessible introduction to some of the excellent research taking place across ATU and encourages further engagement with the people, projects and ideas helping to shape the University's research future.

Dr Shane Conway
Editorial Coordinator, ATU Research Commentary Series



Communicating Research, Enhancing Impact: ATU Research Commentary Series

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Understanding the Future of Work: From Remote Working to Coworking Spaces

Remote working has rapidly shifted from a temporary response to a global crisis into a long-term structural transformation of how, where, and why we work. As organisations and individuals navigate this new landscape, the rise of coworking spaces has become a critical factor in reshaping work practices, community building, and regional development. This research examines how these changes are influencing workers' wellbeing, organisational strategies, and local economies, particularly in rural and regional contexts. Understanding these dynamics is essential now, as policymakers and employers seek sustainable, evidence-based approaches to support flexible work while strengthening social connection and productivity.

Dr Valerie McTaggart
Faculty of Business, ATU Sligo



Research Overview

This research, published in the *Community, Work & Family* journal in 2026 and the *Management & Labour Studies* journal in 2025, investigates how individuals experience both remote working and coworking spaces. It examines the factors that enabled effective working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the conditions that support end-user engagement in coworking environments across Ireland. Situated entirely within the Irish context and spanning the public, private and nonprofit sectors, the research captures a diverse range of organisational settings. Adopting a qualitative, interpretive approach, it draws on survey data from remote workers and in-depth interviews with coworking users, managers and policymakers nationwide, generating an evidence-based understanding of how evolving workplace practices shape productivity, wellbeing and community.

Key Insights / Findings

A key finding from this research is that effective remote working depends on a combination of conditions rather than access to technology alone. Workers' experiences during the COVID 19 pandemic showed that productivity and well-being were shaped by the quality of the home workspace, reliable digital infrastructure, opportunities for social connection, and the ability to maintain clear boundaries between work and home. These factors determined whether remote working acted as a supportive arrangement or a source of strain. A second important insight is that coworking spaces do not inherently generate collaboration or community. Meaningful engagement emerged only when three elements aligned: a well-designed physical environment, active community facilitation, and opportunities for professional development. In their absence, coworking spaces risk limited usage and weakened long term sustainability.

ATU Research Commentary Series

No. 1 - Dr Valerie McTaggart



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Further Reading:

McTaggart, V., Gorman, G., & Quinn, E. (2026) An investigation into how coworking spaces can be developed to support end user buy-in. *Community, Work & Family*, 1–27.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13668803.2026.2619054>

McTaggart, V. and McLaughlin, C. (2025) Lessons Learned from Working from Home: Exploring Factors Considered Critical to Supporting Successful Working from Home During the Pandemic, *Management & Labour Studies*, 50(1), 35–60.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0258042X241283209>

Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3)

Theme:

ICT & ICT Services

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG):

SDG 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth

Acknowledgement:

The author would like to thank their co-authors. Dr Christopher McLaughlin, Department of Management, Leadership & Marketing, Ulster University Business School, Belfast Campus, Northern Ireland (Remote working paper) & Dr Gearldine Gorman, ATU Donegal, and Esther Quinn, ATU Sligo (Coworking spaces paper).

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Why it Matters

This research provides evidence that can directly inform organisational practice, policy development, and community planning. By identifying the conditions that enable effective remote working, it offers guidance for employers seeking to enhance productivity, employee wellbeing, and equitable access to flexible work. These insights are valuable for policymakers seeking to address national digital infrastructure gaps and support workforce resilience, particularly as remote and hybrid models become embedded in Ireland's labour market. The findings on coworking spaces are significant for local authorities, enterprise agencies, and space managers seeking to improve occupancy and long-term sustainability. By demonstrating that successful coworking depends on well-designed environments, active community facilitation and opportunities for development, the research helps organisations and policymakers shape coworking as both an economic and civic asset, especially in rural regeneration strategies.

What's Next?

This research offers clear pathways for practical application and future development across organisations, coworking operators, and policy domains. Evidence from remote working studies can inform organisational guidelines on flexible work, helping employers design support around workspace provision, digital infrastructure, and boundary setting to enhance well-being and performance. These insights could be scaled nationally through employer toolkits or sector specific frameworks. Findings from coworking research can guide space managers and local authorities in shaping sustainable models that emphasise high-quality workspace design, proactive community facilitation, and structured professional development offerings. This has particular relevance for rural development and digital inclusion policy. Future research could integrate both domains by examining how hybrid models combining home, office, and coworking spaces can best support productivity, community, and regional economic resilience.



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A Humane Future for Remote Chronic Care with Artificial Intelligence

Chronic conditions are among the leading causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide; however, healthcare systems are often unprepared to address the needs of patients with chronic conditions. This indicates the need for new approaches to support chronic care delivery.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, remote modalities emerged as promising solutions. They are more convenient for patients and clinicians, but challenges persist in the quality of interaction and assessment, which eventually impact the health outcomes. There is the opportunity to introduce novel solutions, and recent developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) indicate promising avenues.

Dr Pranavsingh Dhunnoo
Faculty of Engineering & Computing, ATU



Research Overview

With a focus on the public health sector in the Northwest of Ireland, this doctoral research explores the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies in remote chronic care. The research has been published in the *Journal of Medical Internet Research* in 2024 and *Future Internet* in 2026, with a further paper forthcoming in the *Journal of Medical Internet Research*. It engaged patients living with chronic conditions and their clinicians to better understand their needs in remote care settings and identify opportunities for improvement. Drawing on these insights, appropriate AI-enabled supports were explored, and a bespoke prototype was co-designed through close collaboration with patients and clinicians. In addition, futures studies were undertaken to examine the potential long-term implications of implementing this AI tool in practice.

Key Insights / Findings

This research has generated important insights into the ongoing challenges associated with remote care delivery. While both patients and clinicians generally view remote care positively, they highlighted limitations in areas such as rapport building, empathetic care delivery and clinical assessment. Based on these findings, key AI features were identified to enhance remote chronic care provision, making it more patient-centred and empathetic. A bespoke prototype has even been developed with the close involvement of end users, resulting in a highly usable and acceptable assistive tool that supports humane care provision at a distance. Furthermore, the future impact of this tool has been identified across key areas of remote care delivery, providing important insights in view of future implementation.

ATU Research Commentary Series

No. 2 - Dr Pranavsingh Dhunnoo



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Further Reading:

Dhunoo P., McGuigan, K., O'Rourke, V.,
Meskó, B. & McCann, M. (2026) User
Perceptions of Virtual Consultations
and Artificial Intelligence Assistance: A
Mixed Methods Study. Future Internet.
18(2), 84. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.3390/
fi18020084](https://doi.org/10.3390/fi18020084)

Dhunoo, P., Meskó, B., McGuigan,
K., O'Rourke, V. & McCann M.
(2026) Forecasting the Impacts of
Artificial Intelligence Assistance in
Virtual Consultations for Chronic
Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: An
Exploratory Futures Wheel Study.
Journal of Medical Internet Research
(forthcoming/in press).

Dhunoo P., Kemp B., McGuigan K.,
Meskó B., O'Rourke V. & McCann, M.
(2024) Evaluation of telemedicine
consultations using health outcomes
and user attitudes and experiences:
scoping review. Journal of Medical
Internet Research, 9(26), e53266. DOI:
[10.2196/53266](https://doi.org/10.2196/53266)

Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3)

Theme:

Life Sciences, Med-Tech & Medical
Devices

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG):

SDG 3: Good Health & Well-Being

Acknowledgement:

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Why it Matters

The findings of this doctoral research are highly relevant to the Irish public health sector. The HSE has outlined its plans for the development and adoption of remote care, highlighting its central role in future care delivery pathways. The challenges identified through this research provide important insights to inform these evolving models of care.

In addition, the HSE's 'AI for Care 2026–2030' strategy sets out ambitions to harness AI to deliver more efficient and innovative healthcare for patients and Healthcare professionals (HCPs). The development of a bespoke AI tool to support virtual consultations, which resulted from this doctoral project, aligns closely with this strategy. The transparent dissemination of this work and its underlying features can support future adoption and implementation of AI-enabled remote care solutions across the Irish healthcare system.

What's Next?

The findings outlined across the publications arising from this doctoral research provide several avenues for future research and practice. Following formal evaluation and regulatory compliance, the evidence-based prototype could be trialled in low-risk remote chronic care settings to assess its effectiveness in practice. The findings also have clear policy relevance, particularly in informing the design of remote care and AI-supported healthcare systems. Future research could expand the participant samples to involve other Irish regions or even other health services to assess the views of these demographics towards the AI solution.



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From Derivation to Dashboard: Applying Mathematical Modelling to Real-World Problems

What can a wooden stick and a measuring tape teach us about the gap between school mathematics and real engineering careers? The Atlantic Technological University Maths Enrichment Program addresses this question by bringing second-level students into authentic problem-solving scenarios beyond the standard curriculum. One representative challenge asks: how much heating oil remains in a horizontal cylindrical tank using only a dipstick and external measurements? This seemingly simple problem introduces students to applied trigonometry, geometric reasoning, and Python programming, skills explicitly sought by engineering employers but rarely integrated in traditional mathematics classrooms.

Dr Fionn Downes
Faculty of Science, ATU Sligo



Research Overview

This research, published in the *Physics Education Journal* in 2024, examines enquiry-led, career-focused mathematics enrichment for secondary-level students across Ireland's Northwest region. Students solve a cylindrical oil tank problem through three scaffolded phases: **derivation** (integrating circle geometry, trigonometry, and Pythagoras to find oil cross-sectional area), **implementation** (translating the equation into Python code with proper edge-case handling), and **visualisation** (using an interactive Colab dashboard with real-time sliders and colour-coded thresholds). The activity reveals the counterintuitive non-linear relationship between oil depth and percentage full. Delivered entirely in a web browser with no installation required, the open-source notebook serves as both a teaching resource and a take-home artefact.

Key Insights / Findings

Two key insights emerge from this work. First, the non-linear relationship between oil depth and volume consistently surprises students—at one-quarter of the tank diameter, the tank is only approximately 15-18% full, not 25%. This counterintuitive discovery reinforces the value of precise mathematical modelling over heuristic estimation, a lesson transferable to countless engineering contexts.

Second, the three-phase structure (derivation → code → visualisation) produces meaningful learning gains. Students who complete all three phases demonstrate a significantly improved ability to articulate how mathematics applies to engineering careers compared to those who receive only the final equation. The interactive visualisation phase, in particular, helps solidify abstract concepts by making the non-linear depth-volume relationship visible and manipulable in real time, transforming a purely mathematical expression into an intuitive engineering insight.



ATU Research Commentary Series

No. 3 - Dr Fionn Downes



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Further Reading:

Downes, F. (2024) Quantifying residual oil in a household oil tank, Physics Education, 59(4) 045015
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1088/1361->

ATU Maths Enrichment Program: <https://www.atu.ie/student-life/student-support/academic-supports/maths-enrichment-programme>

ATU Junior Maths Enrichment Program: <https://www.atu.ie/student-life/student-support/academic-supports/maths-enrichment-programme/junior-maths-enrichment-programme-sligo>

Interactive Colab Notebook: <https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1Ga-Dp3Yl8oPN9P8jnHvV2aznydQ8bGwr?usp=sharing>

QR Code to Python
Colab Notebook



Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) Theme:

Advanced Manufacturing &
Engineering

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG):

SDG 4: Quality Education

Acknowledgement:

The author gratefully acknowledges the voluntary contributions of academic staff at ATU Sligo who deliver the Maths Enrichment Program, as well as the participating second-level students and their schools.

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Why it Matters

This work addresses a persistent gap between school mathematics and workplace application. Employers consistently report that graduates possess theoretical knowledge but lack practical problem-solving experience. The Maths Enrichment Program directly addresses this disconnect by exposing students to engineering problems before they make career decisions, while also aiming to improve their critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. The oil tank activity demonstrates that sophisticated mathematical modelling requires no specialised equipment, only resourcefulness and deductive reasoning. This accessibility is particularly valuable for schools with limited STEM resources. Furthermore, the open-source Colab notebook enables educators nationwide to adopt the activity without cost or technical expertise. Societally, improving quantitative literacy and career awareness among secondary students contributes directly to Ireland's national priority of strengthening the STEM pipeline, particularly in the Northwest region where access to enrichment opportunities remains uneven.

What's Next?

The three-phase pedagogical approach developed through this activity—derivation, implementation, and visualisation—provides a replicable template for teaching mathematically rich problems across diverse domains. Further enrichment classes are planned to cover additional practical applications where mathematical modelling transforms abstract concepts into tangible insights, drawing from areas such as structural analysis, resource optimisation, geometric design, and predictive modelling.

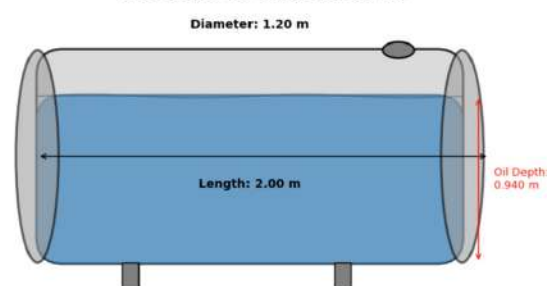
The interactive Colab notebook format is readily adaptable to other mathematical contexts beyond liquid measurement, including any scenario where students must derive a relationship, translate it into executable code, and explore its behaviour through interactive visualisation. Each new application reinforces the same core message: mathematics is not a collection of isolated procedures but a powerful, transferable toolkit for understanding and solving real-world problems across engineering, science, and beyond.

Horizontal Oil Tank Monitor (Interactive Version)

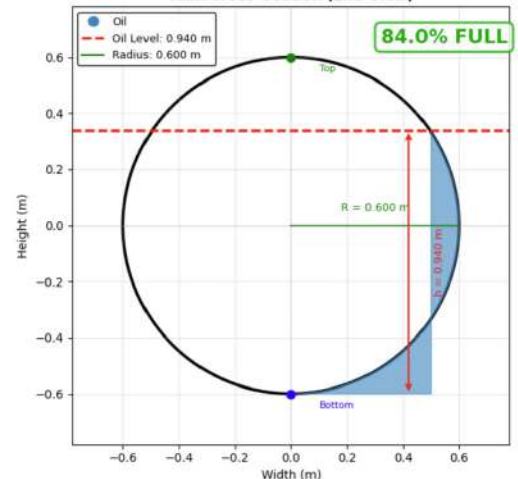
Use the controls below to explore how tank dimensions and oil depth effect the remaining volume.

Tank Length (m): 2.00
Tank Diameter (m): 1.20
Maximum possible depth: 1.20 m (when tank is 100% full)
Oil Depth (m): 0.94

Horizontal Oil Tank Schematic



Tank Cross-Section (End View)



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The Physical and Physiological Demands of Intercounty Camogie Competitions

Despite camogie being a traditional amateur Gaelic sport played by female athletes, it remains significantly under-researched compared to its male counterpart, hurling. This gap is particularly evident in the absence of female-specific guidance to support both performance and player welfare. As an invasion-based field sport involving high-intensity intermittent physical demands, there is a clear need for strength and conditioning recommendations for female camogie athletes, particularly at intercounty level. This includes a greater understanding of camogie-specific injury epidemiology, physiological demands, and practical strength and conditioning (S&C) approaches for implementation. Such insights will empower practitioners to use this knowledge as a blueprint for performance enhancement in female team sports, particularly camogie.

Dr John Duggan
Faculty of Science, ATU Galway



Research Overview

The overall aim of the research was to quantify the physiological and physical demands of matchplay in inter-county camogie, including differences between competitions and the high-intensity actions involved. It also sought to apply the findings to practical applications for use in real-world settings. To achieve this, the research, published in the *Journal of Sports Sciences* in 2025, builds on initial findings presented in the *Strength and Conditioning Journal* in 2020, and examined the physical and physiological demands of inter-county camogie matchplay across the National League and All-Ireland Championship series. Data were collected over a two-year period from 28 players across 18 competitive games, using global positioning systems (10 Hz) and heart rate monitors (2.4 GHz).

Key Insights / Findings

This research highlights significant decreases in matchplay running performance and heart rates (HRs) between competitions, along with some position-specific variations across key performance metrics. The findings indicate that position-specific training and conditioning are required to support intercounty camogie players transitioning from the National League to the All-Ireland Championship series. This is important to optimise adaptation and reduce the negative effects associated with maladaptation. The development of a holistic and comprehensive sports science support programme with the inclusion of external and internal training load metrics can optimise long term athletic development and physical capabilities at inter-county level. Hopefully, the results provided can enable practitioners to prepare inter-county players better for the unique demands of Camogie competition.



ATU Research Commentary Series

No. 4 - Dr John Duggan



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Further Reading:

Duggan, J.D., Byrne, P. J., Malone, S.,
Cooper, S. M. and Moody, J. (2025).
The physical and physiological
demands of intercounty Camogie
match-play between competitions.
Journal of Sports Sciences, 1–13. DOI:
<https://doi.org/10.1080/02640414.2025.2595402>

Duggan, J.D., Moody J.A., Byrne
P. & Ryan, L. (2020) Strength &
conditioning recommendations for
female GAA athletes: the Camogie
player. Strength and Conditioning
Journal 42(4) 105–124. DOI: [10.1519/
SSC.0000000000000577](https://doi.org/10.1519/SSC.0000000000000577)

Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) Theme:

Life Sciences, Med-Tech & Medical
Devices

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG):

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation &
Infrastructure

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based on independent research and do not necessarily
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Western Regional Programme 2021-2027.

Why it Matters

This is the first study to report the unique physical and physiological demands between competitions in inter-county camogie. The findings provide practitioners and coaches with a clearer understanding of matchplay demands, enabling more informed training design. By quantifying between-competition differences, the research supports the development of targeted training prescriptions to better prepare players for the differing demands of both competitions. This research also has important implications for talent identification and the preparation of players transitioning into inter-county camogie, ensuring they are better equipped for elite-level participation. The study establishes key physical and physiological benchmarks within a Gaelic games context, supporting the optimisation of performance at inter-county level. These insights can be used to replicate the specific demands of the game in training environments, as well as to inform position-specific return-to-play and performance protocols. Overall, the findings enable practitioners to apply appropriate external and internal training load stimuli, while providing meaningful feedback to maintain and enhance fitness capacities in preparation for inter-county camogie matchplay.

What's Next?

This research can support practitioners in designing position-specific sprinting and conditioning programmes, enabling players to better manage the transition from the National League to the All-Ireland Championship. The findings also provide guidance for structuring training blocks across the competitive season. Given the growing popularity of camogie both nationally and internationally, further research is needed to better understand the physiological demands of the inter-county game, including internal and external training loads, the impact of the menstrual cycle on performance, and the effectiveness of biomotor qualities in enhancing performance. To maximise physical preparation for the demands of inter-county matchplay, players must be progressively exposed to the specific physical and physiological stimuli required during training, both on and off the field of play. In particular, this research highlights the need for the 'middle eight' positions (half-back line, midfielders, and half-forwards) to receive targeted strength and technical training interventions to ensure they can tolerate the demands of inter-county camogie.



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Building the Future in Wood: Harnessing Mass Timber to Store Carbon and Deliver Net-Zero Infrastructure

The buildings we construct today will shape the climate we inherit tomorrow. Across Ireland and globally, the built environment is responsible for a substantial share of greenhouse gas emissions, driven largely by carbon-intensive construction materials. As nations commit to net-zero targets and climate-resilient development, attention is turning to alternative construction methods that reduce emissions while delivering long-lasting infrastructure. Mass timber, an engineered wood product comprising multiple layers of structural grade timber, is capable of achieving significant structural performance and storing carbon for decades. It is emerging as a practical and scalable solution at a time when rapid decarbonisation of the construction sector is urgently required.

Dr Conan O'Ceallaigh

Faculty of Engineering & Computing, ATU Galway



Research Overview

This research, published in the *Cleaner Environmental Systems Journal* in 2025, and building on initial findings presented in the *Construction and Building Materials Journal* in 2024 and the *Buildings Journal* in 2018, investigates how mass timber can be integrated into buildings and infrastructure systems to reduce whole-life carbon emissions while enhancing structural performance and sustainability outcomes. Recent focus on operational carbon emissions (heating, lighting, etc.) has shifted towards embodied carbon (the emissions associated with materials), highlighting the need for innovation across the built environment. Using a combination of laboratory testing, life cycle assessment, and case studies, the research evaluates how timber structures perform across their lifespan, from material sourcing to end-of-life reuse. The overall approach emphasises practical, evidence-based solutions that support the transition towards a circular and low-carbon built environment.

Key Insights / Findings

The research demonstrates that mass timber buildings can function as long-term carbon stores, locking away carbon absorbed during tree growth for the duration of the building's life. This creates a dual benefit: reducing emissions associated with traditional materials while actively removing carbon from the atmosphere. Evidence also shows that prefabricated timber systems can improve construction efficiency, reduce on-site waste, and support safer and more predictable project delivery. These outcomes benefit a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers seeking credible decarbonisation pathways, industry professionals aiming to meet sustainability targets, and communities seeking healthier, lower-impact buildings.



ATU Research Commentary Series

No. 5 - Dr Conan O'Ceallaigh



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Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3)

Theme:

Renewable Energy, Climate Change &
Sustainability

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG):

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities &
Communities

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sustainable construction and climate-
responsive infrastructure.

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based on independent research and do not necessarily
reflect the position of RISE@ATU.

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and the European Union through the ERDF Northern &
Western Regional Programme 2021-2027.

Why it Matters

The significance of this research lies in its contribution to real-world climate action within the construction sector, one of the most significant industries requiring decarbonisation. By providing robust performance data and practical design guidance, the work helps reduce uncertainty around the use of timber in larger and more complex structures. This supports informed decision-making by engineers, developers, and public authorities responsible for delivering sustainable infrastructure. In practice, this enables more confident adoption of low-carbon construction methods at scale. The societal benefits extend beyond emissions reduction, including improved indoor environmental quality, faster construction timelines, and stronger connections between forestry, manufacturing, and regional economies. Ultimately, the research supports progress towards several SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production, climate action, and sustainable cities and communities.

What's Next?

Looking ahead, the research focus of the TRIBE Lab (Transformative Research & Innovation in the Built Environment) leading this work will strive to address environmental challenges through applied research through experimental and demonstration projects, updated building standards, and expanded use of digital tools for measuring whole-life carbon performance. Scaling the use of mass timber will require coordinated action across multiple supply chains, from sustainable forest management to advanced manufacturing and design for disassembly. Future research will focus on long-term structural health monitoring of timber buildings and integration of modular construction methods that allow buildings to be adapted or reused over time. There is also growing potential to apply these solutions to public infrastructure such as schools, transport facilities, and community buildings. By translating research findings into policy and practice, mass timber can become a mainstream component of climate-positive construction systems.



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Managing Risk Through Trust: Tour Guides in Travel Disruptions

While tourists often travel to explore new places and experience a sense of adventure, travel disruptions can create real and perceived risks due to uncertainty, ambiguity, and gaps in knowledge. An established mechanism for reducing risk is the tour guide (TG), who acts as an intermediary representing the interests of the tourist, the tourism organisation, and the host community during disruptions. From the visitor perspective, the TG also serves as an intercultural mediator, and through frequent interactions, tourists can develop trust in them. This research, undertaken as part of the Horizon Europe-funded REMODEL Project, led by Bursa Uludağ University (BUU) in Türkiye, in partnership with the University of León (ULE) in Spain and Atlantic Technological University (ATU), proposes a conceptual model identifying the key indicators of trustworthiness that shape tourists' overall trust in a tour guide during crises.

Dr Conor McTiernan
Faculty of Business, ATU Donegal



Research Overview

Previous studies suggest that trust implies a willingness to be vulnerable to the actions of another, or to rely on another party based on positive expectations. The inclusion of positive expectations is important, as it reflects the belief that the tour guide (TG) is motivated to meet the expectations of the tourist and act in a trustworthy manner. As tourists' trust in a TG reflects perceptions of trustworthiness, this Horizon Europe-supported research, published as a book chapter in *Travel Disruptions: Impacts, Responses and Resilience* (Routledge, 2025), and building on findings presented in *Current Issues in Tourism* in 2025 and the *Journal of Sustainable Tourism* in 2023, explores how key indicators such as ability, perceived competence, promise fulfilment, benevolence and integrity, influence both cognitive and affective trust in a TG.

Key Insights / Findings

This research highlights that trust is not solely driven by rational factors; the tour guide (TG)–tourist relationship is fundamentally shaped by both cognitive and affective indicators of trustworthiness. As trust is a psychological perception, tourists must both see and feel that the risks posed by disruptions are understood by the TG, and that the TG empathises with them. The ability of the TG, specifically their skills, competencies, and willingness to complete tasks, is identified as a key determinant of trustworthiness, as it underpins cognition-based trust. In addition, the perceived competence of the TG informs affective trust, shaped by role, rule and category-based expectations. The formal position and perceived authority of the TG, supported by visible cues such as uniforms, reinforce their role as credible third-party proxies of trust, drawing on tourists' predisposition towards presumptive trust in others.



ATU Research Commentary Series

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Further Reading:

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Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3)

Theme:

Renewable Energy, Climate Change & Sustainability

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG):

SDG 4: Quality Education

Acknowledgement:

The author would like to thank their co-authors Ciara Quinlan and Dr Ciarán Ó hAnnracháin in ATU Donegal & Prof Aylin Poroy Arsoy, Bursa Uludağ University, Türkiye. This study was supported by the Horizon Europe-funded REMODEL Project (Grant Agreement No. 101079203). The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union.

The content and views included in this article are based on independent research and do not necessarily reflect the position of RISE@ATU.

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Why it Matters

Travel disruptions inherently create uncertainty and present risks, often due to a lack of tacit knowledge, which can place tourists in a crisis management position. This research examines the role of tour guides (TGs) as brokers of influence, highlighting how the physical and psychological strain of disruptions can be reduced through the development of trust in the TG–tourist relationship. Drawing on insights from tourism, psychology, and crisis management, the research explores how trust shapes the management of disruptions and its broader implications within a tourism context. In crisis situations, it is not enough for tourists to simply see that their TG is competent; they must also feel it. Affective trust, grounded in benevolence, must be supported by perceptions of integrity, where tourists sense a shared moral understanding with their TG.

What's Next?

This research, undertaken through the recently completed REMODEL Horizon Europe project, emphasises the importance of formalised training for tour guides (TGs) when assisting tourists during travel crises. Such training should extend beyond ability-based skills to foster social capital grounded in empathy and a commitment to protecting the tourist, reflecting the wider collaborative and interdisciplinary nature of the project itself. Further research is needed to better understand the extent to which these indicators influence trust development. Future studies could examine the relative importance of each indicator across different types of travel disruptions and the operational constraints faced by TGs. The research also recognises that perceptions of risk, trust and crisis are highly personal and may be shaped by demographic and psychographic factors. Additional work could explore how trust develops differently among diverse groups of tourists and TGs during travel disruptions.



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EmpowerCoast: A UN Ocean Decade-Endorsed Platform for Coastal Empowerment

EmpowerCoast is a living coastal intelligence platform, built through the EmpowerUs Horizon project. ATU is one of 16 international partner organisations involved in the Horizon Europe consortium, led by Nordland Research Institute (NRI), Norway. EmpowerCoast puts real evidence in the hands of the people who need it most: rural coastal communities. Technically, it is a next-generation spatial data repository designed to present past, present, and predictive information about coastal environments within a single web-based platform. EmpowerCoast brings together spatial data, IoT sensors, and predictive modelling into a single, coherent platform. The result is a collection of thematic and real-time insights that goes far beyond passive observations. Communities gain interactive tools that make complex environmental data legible, actionable, and theirs. EmpowerCoast has recently received endorsement under the UNESCO UN Ocean Decade Digital Twins of the Ocean (DITTO) platform.

Dr Beulah Evelyn Lazarus
Faculty of Science, ATU Sligo



Research Overview

Coastal communities across Europe face mounting pressures from marine habitat loss, flood risk and declining water quality to support sustainable fisheries. EmpowerCoast is a geospatial digital platform developed through the *EmpowerUs Horizon Europe Project* to provide community-centred, legible, local, and actionable coastal intelligence. Built across six Transitional Coastal Labs (TCLs) spanning Ireland, Norway, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Finland, and Spain, the platform integrates historical social/environmental datasets, real-time IoT environmental monitoring, and predictive spatial modelling to inform local communities about their coast. EmpowerCoast helps coastal communities turn data into actionable knowledge that can support fair and inclusive coastal transitions. Social and Environmental layers connect the coast to people. Maps of housing patterns show how settlements are distributed around shorelines, the location of social enterprises shows how community innovation supports resilience and livelihoods, the dashboards show how towns grow, work and live beside the sea.

Key Insights / Findings

A platform is only as powerful as the problems it is honest about. EmpowerCoast did not define the agenda — the six Transition Coastal Labs (TCL) pilots did. In Norway, the pressing question was spatial: where are people living, and how close are they to protected waters? In Bulgaria, it was green mobility, mapping cycling corridors, that locals could actually use. Cyprus tested the platform on two fronts. Along the Pentakomo coast, IoT sensors were deployed to stream live water quality data, until they were stolen. This served as a reminder that open-access coastal infrastructure has no guaranteed protection. What survived that setback was arguably more durable: a geospatial modelled flood susceptibility for Eastern Limassol to indicate spatial areas that may be more or less susceptible to floods. For Ireland, solar irradiance data gathered with the Aran Islands Energy Cooperative sitting alongside a geospatial flood prediction layer for county Galway was made available through the platform.

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Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3)

Theme:

Renewable Energy, Climate Change
& Sustainability

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG):

SDG 13: Climate Action

Acknowledgement:

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The content and views included in this article are based on independent research and do not necessarily reflect the position of RISE@ATU.

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Why it Matters

Coastal policy has long suffered from an information asymmetry. The people with the richest knowledge of a coastline like those who fish it, live beside it, depend on it, are rarely the same people who get to shape decisions about it. EmpowerCoast does not solve that problem, but it meaningfully disrupts it. By making complex spatial data navigable for non-experts, EmpowerCoast shifts who can participate in evidence-based conversations about coastal futures. That redistribution of access is, in policy terms, significant and it is precisely what the EU's 'Leave No One Behind' commitment demands in practice. Directly linked to the EmpowerUs Transition Coastal Labs, EmpowerCoast provides place-based evidence and is accessible to everyone, not just experts.

What's Next?

The potential of EmpowerCoast does not lie in the technology itself — it lies in what people choose to do with it. By enabling stakeholders to combine social and environmental data across historical, real-time, and predictive timeframes, the platform dissolves the knowledge silos that have long kept coastal communities at the margins of decisions made about them. Scaled beyond six labs, EmpowerCoast offers a replicable model for equitable knowledge management in coastal governance in Europe. The deeper contribution of this research is not a platform — it is a demonstrated pathway from data access to coastal empowerment and social transformation.



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EmpowerUs

Socio-Economic Empowerment
of Coastal Communities



unESCO
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Oceanographic
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Nutrition in Irish Healthcare Education: Gaps and Opportunities

Nutrition plays a central role in the prevention and management of many chronic conditions, influencing key risk factors such as obesity, hypertension and type 2 diabetes, yet relatively little attention has been paid to how it is represented within healthcare education. As these conditions continue to place pressure on health systems in Ireland and internationally, there is growing recognition of the need to strengthen nutrition capacity across the healthcare workforce. Primary care professionals are frequent points of contact within the health service and are widely regarded as trusted sources of health information. Ensuring they are equipped to provide consistent, evidence-based nutrition support is therefore an important consideration for patient care and population health.

Dr Gemma McMonagle
Faculty of Science, ATU Sligo



Research Overview

Published in the *Public Health Nutrition* journal in January 2026, this research explores how nutrition is represented within healthcare education in Ireland, focusing on curriculum frameworks, accreditation standards and professional registration requirements across disciplines such as medicine, nursing and allied health.

Using a document analysis approach, the study examines how nutrition is described and prioritised within formal educational structures. This research offers insight into the extent to which current standards supporting healthcare training explicitly recognise nutrition as a component of professional competence.

Key Insights / Findings

The findings highlight a limited and inconsistent presence of nutrition across healthcare education and professional standards in Ireland. Of the 52 education programmes reviewed, only 26.9% made direct reference to nutrition, with most of these occurring at postgraduate level rather than within core undergraduate training. In addition, only 20% of professional registration requirements explicitly referenced nutrition, while 50% of accreditation standards included direct references. Given the importance of nutrition in reducing disease risk factors, this suggests that many healthcare graduates may enter practice without formal, structured engagement with nutrition as a defined competency. This is particularly significant given the growing rates of diet-related chronic disease and the increasing emphasis on prevention within healthcare systems. At the same time, the research reflects documented standards only, and further analysis is needed to understand how these translate into teaching, learning and practice.



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Further Reading:

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Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) Theme:

Life Sciences, Med-Tech & Medical Devices

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG):

SDG 3: Good Health & Well-Being

Acknowledgement:

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Why it Matters

The findings from this research are relevant in the context of evolving healthcare priorities, where prevention and early intervention are increasingly emphasised. Supporting healthcare professionals to engage with nutrition in routine care may contribute to reducing modifiable risk factors and improving longer-term health outcomes. Primary care settings are particularly important in this regard, given their role as an accessible and trusted point of contact for the public. Opportunities exist to strengthen nutrition capacity through both undergraduate education and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for those already in practice. However, any approach must be feasible within existing systems and mindful of workforce pressures. Further research is needed to identify approaches that are effective, practical and do not place additional burden on healthcare professionals.

What's Next?

Internationally, a substantial body of research has examined nutrition education in healthcare, with ongoing developments in contexts such as the UK demonstrating gradual progress in embedding nutrition within training and practice. At the same time, evidence suggests that nutrition remains inconsistently integrated across many professions. Building on this wider evidence base, there is a need for further research in the Irish context to understand how nutrition can be embedded effectively and consistently across education and practice settings. Future work could explore how nutrition education is delivered, how practitioners engage with it, and what models are sustainable across different disciplines. Ensuring that approaches remain practical for all stakeholders, including educators, healthcare professionals and patients, will be central to any meaningful progression.



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GenAI as a Cognitive Amplifier: Insights from Everyday Use

We are living through one of the most significant technological shifts in human history, yet most of us are navigating it alone, learning as we go. Generative AI (GenAI) tools like ChatGPT have moved rapidly from the margins of technology into the heart of everyday life, reshaping how we work, learn, and think. From Dublin to Dubai, individuals are using GenAI to draft emails, plan holidays, debug code, and tutor themselves in new skills. Yet despite this rapid uptake, we know surprisingly little about how ordinary people are actually experiencing this shift. Questions around trust, knowledge, ethics, and workplace impacts remain underexplored. Published as a book chapter in *AI-Driven Research Innovations in Computing and Information Science* in March 2026, this research addresses that gap, offering empirical and qualitative insights into the everyday realities of GenAI use at a moment when such evidence has never been more urgently needed.

Dr Valerie McTaggart
Faculty of Business, ATU Sligo



Research Overview

This study explores what it genuinely means to live and work alongside Generative AI. Drawing on the real-world experiences of participants from diverse geographic locations and professional backgrounds, the research invites everyday users to share how GenAI has become part of their daily routines from the workplace to the home. Using an online qualitative survey, the study captures a rich and varied range of perspectives on how people adopt, experience, and question GenAI tools such as ChatGPT. The research is grounded in established theoretical frameworks, including the Technology Acceptance Model and the socio-technical perspective, which together help make sense of how people relate to, trust, and are changed by new technologies. Alongside its empirical findings, the study introduces a novel qualitative research approach, the AI-Assisted Thematic Approach, that offers qualitative researchers a practical, ethical, and transparent framework for incorporating GenAI into their analytical processes.

Key Insights / Findings

Two findings from this research stand out as particularly significant. First, despite widespread fears that GenAI will dilute human knowledge and critical thinking, participants overwhelmingly reported the opposite experience, describing GenAI as a tool that enhances their thinking, supports learning, and enables them to focus on more creative and complex tasks. This challenges much of the prevailing rhetoric around AI dependency. Second, whilst participants embraced GenAI enthusiastically in both home and workplace settings, deep ethical concerns were consistently present, particularly regarding data privacy, misinformation, job security, and the transparency of colleagues' use of AI. Together, these findings paint a picture of a society that is neither blindly optimistic nor paralysed by fear, but thoughtfully and pragmatically finding its way in an AI-powered world.



ATU Research Commentary Series

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Further Reading:

McTaggart, V. and McCarthy, J. (2026). Adopting an AI-Assisted Thematic Approach: Exploring Everyday Use of Generative AI Through Qualitative Data Analysis. In P. Ngulube (Ed.), AI-Driven Research Innovations in Computing and Information Science (pp. 37-80). IGI Global Scientific Publishing. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4018/979-8-2600->

Smart Specialisation Strategy

(S3) Theme:

ICT & ICT Services

Sustainable Development Goal

(SDG):

SDG 4: Quality Education

Acknowledgement:

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The content and views included in this article are based on independent research and do not necessarily reflect the position of RISE@ATU.

RISE@ATU is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Northern & Western Regional Programme 2021-2027.

Why it Matters

This research matters because the people most affected by Generative AI, everyday users in homes and workplaces, have largely been absent from conversations shaping its future. By foregrounding their voices and experiences, this study offers something genuinely valuable to a wide range of stakeholders. Policymakers will find evidence to inform responsible AI governance frameworks. Educators will find a compelling case for rethinking how AI literacy is taught and assessed. Employers will find insights into how their teams are really experiencing AI — including fears and ethical concerns that often go unspoken. For the research community, the AI-Assisted Thematic Approach offers a practical, ethical methodology for qualitative researchers working in an increasingly AI-powered world.

What's Next?

This research is very much a beginning rather than an endpoint. As Generative AI continues to evolve at a pace, the need for ongoing, human-centred empirical research has never been greater. The AI-Assisted Thematic Approach introduced in this study offers qualitative researchers across all disciplines a practical and ethical framework that can be adapted, tested, and refined in diverse research contexts. In practice, the findings have immediate relevance for educators, employers, and policymakers seeking evidence-based guidance on responsible AI integration. The potential to scale this work across sectors, disciplines, and international contexts is considerable. Reflecting the growing significance of this contribution, Sage has already commissioned the authors to produce two further chapters for their new book, *Research Methods Using AI for Research*, a recognition that this work and ATU researchers are helping to shape how the research community thinks about and works with Generative AI.



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Farmer's Yards: Supporting Farm Succession Through Social Connection in Later Life

For many older farmers, the prospect of stepping back from farming represents one of the most significant transitions they will face in later life. Farming is not simply an occupation but a lifelong identity deeply connected to family, community and place. Yet farm succession is often approached primarily through legal, financial and taxation considerations, while the emotional and social dimensions of the transition process receive far less attention. Across Ireland and internationally, ageing farming populations, declining numbers of young entrants and growing concerns around farmer wellbeing have intensified discussions about how succession is supported. This research explores how social connection, peer support and World Health Organization (WHO) age-friendly approaches can support older farmers in navigating succession and retirement while maintaining purpose, dignity, wellbeing and meaningful engagement within their farming communities.

Dr Shane Conway
Atlantic Technological University (ATU)



Research Overview

Published in the *Journal of Agromedicine* in 2024, this research examines the development, implementation and early lessons emerging from Farmer's Yards, an innovative social initiative designed to support older farmers through the emotional and practical challenges associated with succession and retirement. The initiative was informed by findings from the Irish component of the International FARMTRANSFERS Survey, a global study involving almost 18,000 farmers across 13 countries and eight U.S. states, which explored older farmers' attitudes, intentions and experiences relating to succession and retirement. Initially piloted at Mountbellew Livestock Mart, Co. Galway in 2023, the initiative created safe and familiar spaces where farmers could discuss succession, wellbeing, ageing and future planning with their peers. The pilot engaged more than 300 participants over a six-week period and generated strong interest from farmers and service providers, highlighting a previously unmet need for social and emotional support alongside traditional succession planning services. Drawing on participant feedback, stakeholder engagement and implementation experience, the research explores how age-friendly approaches can complement existing wellbeing and succession supports and strengthen outcomes for older farmers and their communities.

Key Insights / Findings

The Farmer's Yards pilot revealed strong demand for opportunities where older farmers could openly discuss concerns relating to ageing, retirement, identity, loneliness and the future of their farms. The initiative demonstrated that trusted peer-to-peer environments can encourage earlier and more meaningful conversations around succession, helping to reduce uncertainty and stigma associated with stepping back from farming. Participants valued having a familiar, dedicated space to share experiences and learn from others facing similar transitions. The evidence suggests that social connection and emotional wellbeing are important, yet often overlooked, components of successful succession planning. More broadly, it highlights the importance of creating opportunities for dialogue, trust and peer support throughout the transition process. Collectively, the lessons learned reinforce the need for more holistic approaches that recognise both the human and operational dimensions of intergenerational farm transfer.



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Further Reading:

Conway, S. F., Farrell, M.,
McDonagh, J. and Nolan, N.
(2024) Creating an Age-Friendly
Environment in Farming – The
Farmer's Yards Approach, *Journal
of Agromedicine*, 29(4), 717–724.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/1059924X.2024.2383730>

Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3) Theme:

AgriFood & AgriTech

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG):

SDG 3: Good Health & Well-Being

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Link (PFL) was supported by
the Northeast Extension Risk
Management Education Center
at the University of Delaware
through funding provided by the
United States Department of
Agriculture – National Institute
of Food and Agriculture (USDA–
NIFA).

The content and views included in this article are
based on independent research and do not necessarily
reflect the position of RISE@ATU.

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Why it Matters

With ageing farming populations presenting challenges across the world, there is growing interest in approaches that support older farmers beyond traditional advisory, legal and financial services. Farmer's Yards demonstrates how relatively simple, community-based interventions can create meaningful opportunities for engagement, support and knowledge exchange. The pilot highlighted the value of delivering support within familiar and trusted community settings, helping to encourage participation and open discussion. By placing social inclusion and peer support at the centre of succession discussions, the initiative complements existing advisory services while helping farmers address issues that are often difficult to discuss in formal settings. It also challenges assumptions that retirement from farming necessarily means withdrawal from farming life, instead emphasising continued contribution, mentorship and community engagement. The model aligns with broader policy objectives relating to generational renewal, healthy ageing, rural wellbeing and sustainable farming communities, demonstrating how research-informed social innovation can support older farmers through periods of transition and change in later life.

What's Next?

Following its successful pilot in Ireland, Farmer's Yards was adapted and rolled out in the state of Pennsylvania, U.S.A. in January 2025 by Pennsylvania Farm Link (PFL), supported by funding from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Northeast Extension Risk Management Education Centre. The successful transfer of the model to a very different agricultural context demonstrates its wider relevance and scalability. Interest in the approach is also growing nationally, including through engagement with Age Friendly Ireland following a feature on RTÉ Radio 1 in February 2026 and subsequent calls in Dáil Éireann for its expansion in May 2026. Internationally, the initiative was showcased at the International Farm Transition Network (IFTN) Annual Conference in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in June 2026, bringing the concept to a global audience of researchers, educators and practitioners working on farm succession. Future work will continue to explore how age-friendly and community-based approaches can support older farmers during succession and retirement transitions. The lessons learned offer valuable insights for policymakers, advisory services and rural development organisations seeking to support farming communities through demographic change, healthy ageing and generational renewal.



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Concluding Remarks and Future Directions

The Editorial Coordinator of the ATU Research Commentary Series would like to sincerely thank all researchers who contributed to the inaugural series during the 2025/2026 academic year. The strong level of engagement from researchers across ATU's faculties and campuses has played a central role in shaping and strengthening this initiative during its first year.

The ATU Research Commentary Series was established as part of a broader commitment to strengthening research visibility, knowledge mobilisation, strategic communication and public engagement across the University. It also reflects a growing national and international recognition that the value of research extends beyond academic publication alone. By providing researchers with a structured, accessible and citable platform to communicate the significance and impact of their work, the series aims to strengthen connections between research, policy, industry, practice and wider society while supporting regional, national and international priorities

All commentaries published as part of this initiative are openly accessible through Zenodo, the European Commission-supported open-access research repository, where each article is assigned a unique Digital Object Identifier (DOI) to support formal citation, dissemination, discoverability and long-term accessibility.

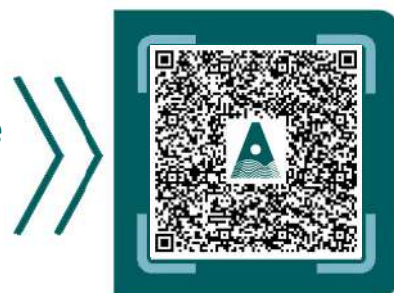
ATU Research Commentary Series – Zenodo Channel QR Code Here
(Link: *ATU Research Commentary Series – Zenodo Channel*)



The ATU Research Commentary Series will continue to evolve as a platform for supporting accessible, research-informed and impact-oriented communication across the University. As the series develops, future contributions are welcomed from researchers across all ATU faculties, campuses and disciplinary areas. Particular encouragement is given to submissions that demonstrate clear societal, policy, industry or community relevance, and which contribute to addressing regional, national and global challenges.

Researchers interested in contributing to future editions of the ATU Research Commentary Series are encouraged to contact the Research Coordinator function at ATU: shane.conway@atu.ie

ATU Research Commentary Series – Submission Form QR Code Here
(Link: *ATU Research Commentary Series – Submission Form*)



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Individual ATU Research Commentary Citations

- **McTaggart, V. (2026)** Understanding the Future of Work: From Remote Working to Coworking Spaces, ATU Research Commentary Series (No. 1), RISE@ATU, Zenodo.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19469800>

- **Dhunnoo, P. (2026)** A Humane Future for Remote Chronic Care with Artificial Intelligence, ATU Research Commentary Series (No. 2), RISE@ATU, Zenodo.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19571987>

- **Downes, F. (2026)** From Derivation to Dashboard: Applying Mathematical Modelling to Real-World Problems, ATU Research Commentary Series (No. 3), RISE@ATU, Zenodo.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19665461>

- **Duggan, J. D. (2026)** The Physical and Physiological Demands of Intercounty Camogie Competitions, ATU Research Commentary Series (No. 4), RISE@ATU, Zenodo.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19697422>

- **O'Ceallaigh, C. (2026)** Building the Future in Wood: Harnessing Mass Timber to Store Carbon and Deliver Net-Zero Infrastructure, ATU Research Commentary Series (No. 5), RISE@ATU, Zenodo.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19733523>

- **McTiernan, C. (2026)** Managing Risk Through Trust: Tour Guides in Travel Disruptions, ATU Research Commentary Series (No. 6), RISE@ATU, Zenodo.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20081615>

- **Lazarus, B. E. (2026)** EmpowerCoast: A UN Ocean Decade-Endorsed Platform for Coastal Empowerment, ATU Research Commentary Series (No. 7), RISE@ATU, Zenodo.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20182067>

- **McMonagle, G. (2026)** Nutrition in Irish Healthcare Education: Gaps and Opportunities, ATU Research Commentary Series (No. 8), RISE@ATU, Zenodo.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20611024>

- **McTaggart, V. (2026)** GenAI as a Cognitive Amplifier: Insights from Everyday Use, ATU Research Commentary Series (No. 9), RISE@ATU, Zenodo.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20704980>

- **Conway, S. F. (2026)** Farmer's Yards: Supporting Farm Succession through Social Connection in Later Life, ATU Research Commentary Series (No. 10), RISE@ATU, Zenodo.
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All research commentaries published as part of this initiative are openly accessible through Zenodo, the European Commission-supported open-access research repository. Each commentary is assigned an individual Digital Object Identifier (DOI), supporting formal citation, long-term accessibility, discoverability and the wider dissemination of research outputs.

The ATU Research Commentary Series was established as part of the research communications, dissemination and exploitation (C,D&E) remit of the Research Coordinator function at ATU, in collaboration with the ATU Communications Office. The series forms part of a broader institutional commitment to strengthening research visibility, knowledge mobilisation and strategic research communication, while supporting accessible, publicly engaged and policy-relevant dissemination of research undertaken across the University.

Views expressed within individual commentaries are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the official views of Atlantic Technological University, its partners or associated funding bodies.



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