



Charlemont Grant Report

Recipient Name:	Dr Alison Herbert
Discipline:	Humanities and Social Sciences
Amount and year awarded:	€1,600 in 2019
Title of Project:	Examining the relationship between place and ageing amongst mid-life women in rural Sweden



Summary of findings:	<p>Key findings to research show that place/home is a strong influencer of quality of life and the ageing process for a number of mid-life rural women in Sweden. Any socio-economic drawbacks of living in a rural area, such as limited socio-economic infrastructure, are compensated by the perceived positives of rural living. Such features as close-knit community spirit, clean environment, and cheaper housing appear to positively influence how participants of my research study were ageing. However; a full analysis can only be achieved after transcribing and analysing my interviews, which I am only just starting now.</p> <p>The RIA grant has allowed me to gather rich data from ten diverse participants living in Grums, a townland within the Värmland area of Sweden, and to compare this data to that already gathered in my doctoral thesis, in Connemara, Ireland.</p>
Plans for continuing collaboration:	<p>This collaboration with Sweden may continue in the future, pending funding. It is however my intention to conduct similar research next year in a rural community in Scotland, and to compare those findings to those already gathered in Sweden and Ireland, with a view to inform policy.</p>
Publication plans:	<p>I intend to write an academic paper for a peer-reviewed journal on the findings of my Swedish research. I will target this article at the 'Journal of Rural Studies' https://www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-rural-studies and 'Ageing & Society' https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/ageing-and-society.</p>



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International dissemination:	I intend to present the analysis of my Swedish research to an international audience at the British Society of Gerontology annual conference in July 2020 to be held in Bristol www.britishgerontology.org .
National dissemination:	I intend to present a seminar in Spring 2020 within the Whitaker Institute, NUI Galway of my findings https://aran.library.nuigalway.ie/handle/10379/28 .
Additional collaborations:	I have offered to collaborate with a working group, Gender and Regional Studies, within the Regional Studies Association, UK https://www.regionalstudies.org/funding/research-network-grant-scheme/
Outreach:	I intend to present an analysis of my Irish and Swedish findings on rural place and ageing to the Irish Countrywomen's Association, https://www.nwci.ie/discover/member_detail/irish_countrywomens_association