A Geography of Fear of Crime in Maynooth

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Introduction

Introduction.

Geography of crime is not a new addition to the discipline of geography, many studies, mostly empirical in nature and carried out by male geographers, have been conducted in the past. Fear of crime is however regarded as a newcomer, especially in feminist studies. Geography has tended to ignore the plight of women with regard to fear of crime preferring to map areas of high crime levels and infer relationships with women's fear. Public space is regarded by many as being patriarchal ruled and is therefore of great interest to feminist geography where they try to understand women's use of space when fear is a contributing factor to their decision making.

Division of space is of great importance when trying to understand fear of crime. As I have already stated public space is regarded as being patriarchal, under male rule thus women often feel under threat, fearing crime, especially that of a sexual nature being perpetrated by a stranger in public areas. More often than not it is the area itself that is blamed for generating the fear while the nature of the fear itself is ignored. What is most important to note here is that people feel more unsafe in a public area than at home when it is in the home that most crime is perpetrated and by a known assailant. As Rachel Pain states "an accurate map of would highlight more bedrooms than alleyways and parks"[1].

It is with this in mind that I present my own study. I will be dealing specifically with public space in the university town of Maynooth, Co. Kildare. In the four years I have attended the college there have been numerous reports of attacks on female students on college grounds and in the town. At the time these reports had the effect of curtailing the movements of female students around the campus, especially after daylight hours for fear of further attacks. There have not been any reports of such instances in the past few months as far

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[1] Pain, Rachel (1997) PG 233 *Social geographies of women's fear of crime in* Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers vol. 22

as I am aware and I wish to investigate if the curtailments on students' movements, both male and female, still exist or were they just of a temporary nature. By surveying both male and female students I hope to be able to see if a strong gender-bias occurs or if the fear is universal. I also hope to gain some insight into the temporal nature of fear by asking the participants for examples for both day and night. Their sources on crime will also be looked at a previous study[1] has blamed a media bias for covering crime in public space as opposed to domestic violence as producing the reversal of fear levels to areas of risk. I intend to produce a set of maps indicating the areas of high levels of fear, the temporal disparities and any gender-bias that may also be evident.

I will also be including a section on methodology used in the survey and how analysis was carried out on one hundred and twenty structured/semi-structured questionnaires using the computer package SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences).

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[1] Valentine, Gill (1989) *The Geography of women's fear* Area vol 21 PG 385-390

Chapter 1

Methodology

1:1 Methodology.

Methodology is a component in any study and likewise is the case here. My work is modelled on that of feminist geographers were qualitative techniques are an integral part of the work. Feminist geographers prefer to use both quantitative and qualitative approaches such as first issuing questionnaire surveys and then using a qualitative approach such as in-depth interviewing, "...in ways they are most comfortable with - for example by telling stories or following digressions".[1] This allows the researcher to not only gather information from a large number of participants while also gaining extra, more in-depth information from a sample group. As well as the quantitative approach I will also make use of secondary source of information from a MRBI[2] survey and an extensive literature review.

1:2 Questionnaire Survey

While I would model my research on feminist geographers I have chosen to use just a quantitative approach as I felt it would be sufficient for my needs. The questionnaire form I used was of a structured/semi-structured nature so as to gain the information I wanted but to also allow the respondent some extra input into the process.

The questionnaire[3] was distributed to one hundred and twenty students on a random basis as they exited the college grounds via the main gates. Of the one hundred and twenty there were forty-seven males and seventy-three females participants.

Analysis on the completed questionnaire surveys was carried out using the computer package SPSS.[4] An introduction to this package was provided in Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias'[5] book. A codebook[6] was drawn up for the

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1) Neuman 2000 Pg 282

2) Market Research Bureau of Ireland Limited, 1987 survey conducted for 'The Irish Association for Victim Support'

3) See appendix one

4) Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

5) Frankfort-Nachmias, C. and Nachmias, D. (1996) Appendix A. Research Methods in the Social Sciences Arnold, London

6) See appendix two

classification and easy entering of the data into the computer. Tables of different data outcomes were produced and can be seen throughout.

1:3 Secondary Sources

A secondary source of information that I will be relying on is a survey report carried out by the MRBI in 1987. The survey was conducted on behalf of the Irish Association for Victim Support to highlight the problem of crime and the lasting effects it has on its victims. This is the only survey available in an Irish context, to the best of my knowledge, and although it is dated I hope to make use of its findings to verify my own results if they are similar.

1:4 Literature Review.

Feminist geographers have supplied a rich vein of studies on women's fear of crime and I have looked extensively at the studies of a particular two,-Gill Valentine and Rachel Pain. Both are British geographers with a strong interest in fear of crime in women and have carried out many researches on the topic. Their studies include one on Edinburgh[1] and Reading[2] which would be larger urban areas to Maynooth and I hope they will prove to be an interesting comparison with my own results. I will also be looking at Yarwood and Gardner's[3] study of rural fear of crime, a prospect previously ignored in geography of crime. This will also prove to be an interesting comparison, as Maynooth would be regarded as a small urban settlement of over fifteen thousand inhabitants.

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1) Pain, R. (1997)

2) Valentine, G. (1989)

3) Yarwood, R. & Gardner, G. (2000) *Fear of crime, cultural threat and the countryside* in Area vol.32

Chapter 2

The Findings

2:1 The Study

As I have already mentioned in the previous chapter my study is of the student's of Maynooth and the fear of crime that they might experience. As I have stated in my introduction this is not just a study to map areas of fear of crime but I also wish to locate the students' source of information as regard to crime to see if Valentine[1] was correct in her assumption that the media lays a large role in people's perception of the location of crime. As it is students I will be dealing with, most of them very young and perhaps their first time away from home I expect to find reliance on their parents to advise them on safety issues. I have also asked them on how safety on college grounds can be better promoted.

I will now present you with the findings of the study and I intend to compare them with other studies in the next chapter.

2:2 Areas of fear of crime in Maynooth: a temporal analysis

The survey contained many questions on the location of the students' fear both on-campus and in the town of Maynooth. This was so the students could locate their fear precisely in two very different public areas. The campus would be viewed as a public area but in many ways it is almost privatised in that security guards are present at all times around the campus and visitors are somewhat monitored. The town is a different public arena in that it is policed in a different manner and as the town is a much larger area than the university campus and therefore much harder to control. There is also a limited number of Gardaí on duty at any one time so it is impossible for the whole area to be policed effectively.

The participants were also asked to reveal if there was a temporal nature to their fear by locating it in two different time frames, i.e. day and night. The following tables show the difference between day and night for students on the campus.

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1) Valentine, G (1992) *Images of Danger: Women's sources of information about the spatial distribution of male violence* in Area vol. 22

Table 1.

Areas of fear on-campus during the day

Area	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
Old/South Campus	7	5.8	9.7	9.7
Logic house	9	7.5	12.5	22.2
Rhetoric house	4	3.3	5.6	27.8
St. Joseph's square	4	3.3	5.6	33.3
Library	0	0.0	0.0	33.3
Student bar	1	0.8	1.4	34.7
Arts building	0	0.0	0.0	34.7
Apt. Access path	7	5.8	9.7	44.4
Other	3	2.5	4.2	48.6
Inapplicable	37	30.8	51.4	100.0
Total	72	60.0	100.0	
Missing	48	40.0		
Total	120	100.0		

Table 2.

Areas of fear on-campus at night

Area	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
Old/South Campus	4	3.3	3.7	3.7
Logic house	8	6.7	7.5	11.2
Rhetoric house	8	6.7	7.5	18.7
St. Joseph's square	2	1.7	1.9	20.6
Library	3	2.5	2.8	23.4
Student bar	4	3.3	3.7	27.1
Arts building	3	2.5	2.8	29.9
Apt. Access path	36	30.0	33.6	63.6
Other	2	1.7	1.9	65.4
Inapplicable	37	30.8	34.6	100.0
Total	107	89.2	100.0	
Missing	13	10.8		
Total	120	100.0		

As can be clearly seen from the tables above, there is a strong temporal pattern to the data. While the access path to the apartments is regarded as being relatively safe during the day with just seven people feeling unsafe it dramatically increases for night time with thirty-seven people stating the feared that area at night.

Logic house has shown little change between day and night, in fact it decreased by one for the night.

Rhetoric house also doubled its figures from four to eight citing it as an area of risk on-campus. The lighting in this area is particularly bad and a female

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student was attacked in this area a couple of years ago which may have a bearing on this.

The student bar also increased its tally from one in the daytime to four at night. This may be due to fears of violence after the consumption of alcohol in the bar.

The Old/South campus in general was cited as a main area for safety concerns as one respondent said there was little lighting on this half of the college and the many trees that are planted along the paths make it a cause for concern.

Other areas named by the respondents were the library and St. Joseph's square, both located on the South campus.

While the campus is seen as relatively safe in the day a total of thirty-five out of the one hundred and twenty who took part had concerns for their safety during the day. The tables produced by the SPSS[1] package places it as a valid cumulative percentage of 48.6% which is a very significant number of students, almost half. The figure rises to 65.4% valid cumulative percent for the night, a rise of 17%.

The same question of temporality was applied to the town and the students were asked to locate areas they fear in the town. SPSS[2] produced a frequency table for the town areas.

Table 3

Areas of fear in town during day

Area	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
Canal	19	15.8	24.1	24.1
Housing estate	5	4.2	6.3	30.4
Doctors lane	3	2.5	3.8	34.2
Train station	4	3.3	5.1	39.2
Moygalre Rd.	3	2.5	3.8	43.0
Inapplicable	45	37.5	57.0	100.0
Total	79	65.8	100.0	
Missing	41	34.2		
Total	120	100.0		

1) Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

2) Ibid

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Table 4.

Areas of fear in town at night

Area	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
Canal	33	27.5	31.1	31.1
Housing estate	11	9.2	10.4	41.5
Doctors lane	5	4.2	4.7	46.2
Train station	9	7.5	8.5	54.7
Moyglare Rd.	3	2.5	2.8	57.5
Inapplicable	45	37.5	42.5	100.0
Total	106	88.3	100.0	
Missing	14	11.7		
Total	120	100.0		

There are just five areas that the respondents have given as areas of fear in the town of Maynooth compared to the nine on-campus. As can be clearly seen from the tables the canal features heavily in the minds of students. Nineteen said it was an area of fear for them during the day and it increased to thirty-three for the night. That amounts to a valid 31.1 percent which is a significant portion of the group surveyed. Some participants stated that while they would use the canal route as a shortcut into estates and the town they would always be extra wary of their surroundings, particularly if they were on their own. This mostly applied to the female respondents.

Housing estates were also a concern for the students, although Tables 3 and 4 do not show the actual names of the estates the most cited estate was Kingsbry with three people naming it, others did not give a specific name. Poor lighting and "rough elements" were said to be the cause of this fear for one respondent.

The train station, located across the canal from the college, was also a cause for concern especially when waiting on a late-night train. Although it is reasonably well lit they still felt uneasy in those surroundings.

Doctor's Lane located off the Straffan Road at the square in the town centre also posed a threat in some of those who partook in the survey, five stating it was an area of fear in the town for them. It is also relatively well lit but is fed by a number of lanes and is situated to the back of the main street shops and is also bordered by the Supervalu car park which is largely deserted at night.

The fact that the local nightclub is housed in the Glen Royal Hotel may be contributing to the fear as people, often intoxicated use the car park as a shortcut to the town centre.

Moyglare Road is the final area noted by the students. Located along the border of the North campus[1] it is flanked by trees on either side. There is also the primary and post-primary school car parks to contend with where, as one girl put it on her questionnaire "there are walls and bushes everywhere, you don't knowwho could be hiding there".

The tables clearly show that there is a temporal nature to the respondents' fear of crime.

2:3 Previous history of crime.

The survey also showed that a large number of the respondents had not been a previous victim of crime themselves. As Smith[2] explains "whereas direct experiences of crime are relatively infrequent for any individual and take the form of specific, discrete events, fear is more widespread and takes the form of persistent and recurrent or continuous anxiety". The respondents were asked if they had ever been a victim of crime and the frequency to which they have been subjected to it. The vast majority had not been a victim with almost 17% claiming to have been a victim of some crime. They were then asked the type of crime that they had experienced, the following table gives a breakdown of their answers.

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[1] See appendix three, maps

[2] Smith, (1986) Crime, Space and Society pg 109

Table 5.

Type of crime victim of

Crime	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
house burglary	4	3.3	4.0	4.0
violent attack	3	2.5	3.0	6.9
mugging	1	0.8	1.0	7.9
damage to property	8	6.7	7.9	15.8
other	1	0.8	1.0	16.8
inapplicable	84	70.0	83.2	100.0
total	101	84.2	100.0	
missing	19	15.8		
total	120	100.0		

As you can see from Table 5 only cumulative 16.8% of those surveyed have had first hand experience of crime, the vast majority suffering damage to private property such as broken windows, damage to a private vehicle and damage to gardens, for example. Eighty-four out the one hundred and twenty that took part had no previous experience of crime but as Tables 6 and 7 will show, this has little effect on their fear of crime.

Table 6.

Crosstabulation: fear for safety in town * previous victim of crime

Fear for safety in town	Previous victim Yes	No	Total
Yes	5	40	45
No	8	32	40
Total	13	72	85

Table 7.

Crosstabulation: fear for safety on campus * previous victim of crime

Fear for safety on campus	Previous victim Yes	No	Total
Yes	10	51	61
No	5	24	29
Total	15	75	90

They clearly show that there is little relation between previous victimisation and fear of crime. A vast majority fear for their safety yet have no

history of victimisation, this is especially clear in relation to Table 7 where fifty one people have had no previous history of crime yet still fear for their safety on-campus. In each case there is a significant amount of people who fear for their safety, both on-campus and in the town area

2:4 Sources of Information.

As I stated in my introduction I intend to locate the source of the respondents who had partaken in the survey. The main reasons for locating these sources are to see in one main unduly influence them into fearing certain environments. Valentine[1] believes that a bias is evident in the media to publicise male violence in the public space thereby leading the public to believe it is a dangerous environment, " by disproportionately publicising attacks committed in public places rather than domestic violence, the media place dangers women fear into the public environment and link crimes to particular locations such as parks and railways".[2]

The participants were offered a number of sources on crime in both a general context and with regard to Maynooth specifically. This was to see on whom the respondents relied on for information on crime and safety. Once again there is a table to illustrate the outcomes of these questions. The five options the students had to pick from were: parents, peers, the media, Gardaí and other. Table 8 shows the outcome for general sources of information and Table 9 depicts the results for sources of information specific to Maynooth.

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1) Valentine 1992

2) Ibid pg 26.

Table 8.

General sources of information on crime

Sources	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
Parents	33	27.5	28.4	28.4
Peers	7	5.8	6.0	34.5
Media	53	44.2	45.7	80.2
Gardaí	18	15.0	15.5	95.7
Other	5	4.2	4.3	100.0
Total	**116**	**96.7**	**100.0**	
Missing	4	3.3		
Total	**120**	**100.0**		

In this instance a large majority rely on the media to provide information on crime and are open to the bias spoke of by Valentine. Parents were the second major source of information with 27.5% relying on them to provide the information, surprisingly only eighteen respondents look to the Gardaí to provide the necessary details.

Table 9.

Sources of information on crime in Maynooth

Sources	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
Parents	21	17.5	18.8	18.8
Peers	57	47.5	50.9	69.6
Media	25	20.8	22.3	92.0
Gardaí	7	5.8	6.3	98.2
Other	2	1.7	1.8	100.0
Total	**112**	**93.3**	**100.0**	
Missing	8	6.7		
Total	**120**	**100.0**		

In this case it is the peer groups that dominate proceedings, while the media had a very strong role in the provision of information in general it is overshadowed a lot by the presence of peer groups yet it is still of great importance with 20.8% seeing it as a vital source of crime information in Maynooth. The role of the peer group may be inflated in this instance as information travels through word of mouth. It may also account for increased fears as stories are exaggerated as they are passed along, much like a Chinese whisper. The Gardaí also have a diminished role in Maynooth as far as information goes with just seven people viewing them as important in this role

in the university town. The role of parents is still significant in this instance with 17.5% citing it the most important source.

2:5 Improvements.

Along with the other questions the students were asked for their views on campus safety and any improvements they would make to increase safety levels. In this case a number of suggestions were made on how these improvements could be made. The following table depicts the results of this question.

Table 10.

Improvements to student safety

Suggestion	Frequency	%
Greater garda/security presence	22	18.3
Better lighting	55	45.8
Security phones around campus	10	8.3
Increased information	23	19.2
Other	5	4.2
Total	115	95.8
Missing	5	4.2
Total	120	100.0

Lighting around the campus is an obvious cause for concern in the mind of the respondents, fifty-five called for better lighting around the two campuses. Greater Garda/Security presence was the next highest on the list with 18.3% support for this idea. Tied in with this idea is the provision of special security phones to be distributed to key areas around the campus so as to be connected to the security personnel should anything be wrong. The idea of more information was also a popular choice amongst the students with twenty-three citing it as an important improvement to be made. This could be done through the student newspaper and special bulletins being posted whenever a threat arises so as to educate students on safety issues. Another suggestion was to provide self-defence classes and encourage students to be aware of the dangers that they may face either on-campus or in the town. The removal of mature trees from the

campus was also an idea from one of the respondents as they pose an indirect threat to students by obstructing people's line of sight and providing a potential attacker with cover, especially at night.

2:6 Brief Summary.

A brief summary of the reports findings shows that firstly there is a strong temporal element to the feeling of fear with relation to crime. This fear is particularly evident after dark and can be seen clearly in Tables 1-4.[1] A history of crime does little to the effects of fear, many of those who experience the fear have no history of victimisation nor are ever likely to become one yet the feeling of fear is persistent none-the-less.

Where the media plays an important role in the provision of general information on crime it is replaced by peers where the reliance on word of mouth is much more in evidence and important than the media's reports.

The overwhelming choice for increased safety, especially on-campus, is better lighting, more information on crime and safety practices was next in line followed by increased security presence. The issue of lighting has long been a debate between the student council and the college but has so far failed to materialise.

In the next chapter I will compare and contrast my own results with those of similar studies.

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1) See pages 12 & 14

Chapter 3

Comparisons

3:1 Comparisons.

The lack of a comprehensive Irish study has meant that there is no real comparison available to predict trends across the country so there is a reliance on British data sources. In this chapter I will draw comparisons with previously published research in order to see if Maynooth shows the same patterns as larger urban areas such as Edinburgh[1] or do smaller urban areas have a distinct pattern of their own. I will also be comparing to a recent study on fear of crime in a rural area, one of the first works in this area in geography, again to see if any comparisons can be drawn. I will also be drawing information from an MRBI[2] survey, an Irish example to compare results. The two main examples I will draw from will be from two British, feminist geographers, Pain and Valentine. They have both committed to the area of fear of crime and have produced a large volume of essays on the subject, with particular attention paid to women's fear of crime.

3:2 British Comparisons.

The first comparison I will draw on is the examples of women's fear of crime in large urban areas, the examples here being Edinburgh[3] and Reading[4] which would be regarded as relatively large urban areas.

Pain's study was carried out amongst six hundred women in three wards in the city of Edinburgh. Her sample had a representative number of mothers, women with disabilities, and of varying ages and social classes. Pain concentrated on women's fear of sexual violence and the spatial consequences of such fears. The main findings of her survey show that women are deeply affected by the threat of sexual violence, be it an actual or perceived threat. Coping strategies are often adopted in these situations such as avoidance of an area, not going out alone, watchfulness whilst walking and so on. A table shows

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1) Pain, R. (1997) *Social Geographies of Women's Fear of Crime* in *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* vol. 22 pg. 231-244

2) Market Research Bureau of Ireland Limited.

3) Pain, R. (1997).

4) Valentine, G. (1989) *The Geography of Women's Fear* in Area vol. 21 pg 385-390

the temporal nature of this fear, as noted in my own study, however this table shows women's fear in the private and public space.

Table 11

.**Women's fear of violent crime in public and private space**[1]

'Very worried' or 'fairly worried about each incident	% (n=380)
Sexual assault outside by a stranger	68.7
Physical assault outside by a stranger	59.0
Sexual assault in your home by a stranger	45.2
Physical assault in your home by a stranger	42.0
Physical assault in your home by someone you know	23.4
Sexual assault in your home by someone you know	25.2

The table shows a clear bias to fear assault in the public space even though it has already been noted that one is more at risk in the private sphere. This part of the study does not compare directly to my own but the strong temporal trend is to be noted albeit in a different context and creates a 'spatial paradox'.[2]

There are a wide range of coping strategies adopted by the women to deal with their fear, ranging from avoidance to simply not going out at all. This is to show "most women hold powerful concepts of public space as dangerous and private space as safe".[3]

Pain also notes past experiences of crime that may contribute to these women's fear of crime. While 49.8% of those surveyed said they had been followed at least once 85.1% said that this single incident had made them worry about sexual attacks. This is a significant number of women who fear an attack of a sexual nature. In comparison to my own study the vast majority of those surveyed fear for their safety just as these women do. As my survey did not contain questions specifically on sexual violence and assault it is difficult to make direct comparisons between the two. Pain's survey also contains comparisons between the different age groups whereas I had to omit this from my own study, as it did not contain a sufficient difference in age to warrant a

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1) Pain (1997) pg 235

2) Ibid pg 234

3) Ibid pg 235

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comparison that would prove viable.

Valentine's[1] study is situated in Reading and had a research base of eighty women with whom in-depth interviews were conducted. The main focus of her paper was to show the relationship between women's use of public space and the patriarchal ruling of this space, indeed the curtailed use of space by women is indeed an expression of this division of public space. Valentine also notes the coping strategies adopted by the women whish in turn restricts their "use and occupation of public space"[2] thereby reinforcing the patriarchal division of space.

Valentine also identifies two main areas women feel most at risk in "dangerous places at dangerous times"[3] and it correlates with my own research findings. The first of these are large open spaces that often remain deserted: **parks**, woodland, waste ground, **canals, rivers** and countryside. The second areas are closed spaces with limited exits: subways, alleyways, multi-storey car parks and empty train carriages.[4] As you can see some similarities do exist between the two sets of data, some of the areas mentioned do correlation to some degree (those highlighted in bold print).What the areas both on-campus and in the town share is their lack of adequate lighting, all the areas cited as being areas of fear and hold concern for the respondents are all relatively badly lit.

Valentine also looks at the use women make of the information that they have in relation to crime. She gives the example of women who feel safe in their local neighbourhood as it is familiar yet place preconceived ideas on areas they do not know as well so as to adjust their behaviour and act more defensively in the public space. They also place value on the type of neighbourhood they find themselves in, in this instance she refers to middle class areas versus lower class areas both of whom assume their neighbourhood is safer than the other. This

1) Valentine, G. (1989) *The geography of women's fear* Area vol.22 pg 385-390

2) Ibid pg 386

3) Ibid pg 386

4) Ibid pg 386

fulfils one of the main objectives of the paper by examining the connection between fear of crime and the perception and use of public space. Again direct comparisons are infrequent with the two studies but this paper helps understand better the findings of my own.

While the comparisons between these two studies shown above and my own research are few and far between, the information gathered compliments each other in order to gain a better understanding of the findings.

3:3 Rural Example

There are a limited amount of studies that have been undertaken to investigate the situation of fear of crime in a rural area. As Maynooth is a relatively small urban area it may compare more favourably with the rural studies. In 2000 Yarwood and Gardner produced a paper entitled *Fear of crime, cultural threat and the countryside*[1] that dealt with the rural aspect. They first point out that there have been grave misrepresentations in presenting rural areas as safe. They point out that rural crime is on the increase and there are few policemen in be found in such areas. Crime undertakes a different meaning in rural areas, often forming part of the whole rural identity, for example smuggling, poaching or wrecking.[2] Crime therefore constitutes a different meaning when dealing with the rural perspective. While the whole village of interest in Worchestshire was distributed a questionnaire there was only a forty-seven percent response rate. People were asked of their concerns for crime in the area and the researchers produced a table to illustrate their answers.

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1) in Area 32 pg 403-411

2) ibid pg 404

Table 12.

Crime concerns in a rural area[1]

Crime	Unconcerned %	Fairly concerned %	Extremely concerned %	No answer/ don't know/ Inapplicable %
Having child abducted	64	2	0	34
Damage to home	62	9	1	28
Theft/burglary	45	27	5	26
Interference with livestock	31	4	2	63
Mugging	76	2	1	21
Sexual assault	77	1	1	22
Theft of property from vehicle	51	20	3	26
Threats from strangers	70	3	1	21
Trespass	55	17	5	23
Theft of vehicle	50	24	2	25
Violence	76	2	1	21

As the table shows rural residents have little concern for crime in general although they would be a bit concerned as regards theft and burglary with twenty-seven percent saying that they would be fairly concerned with this occurrence. The theft of a vehicle and property from a vehicle are also big worries for the respondents with twenty-four and twenty percent respectively showing their concern for this eventuality.

The survey also contained questions on their previous experience of crime which would be relevant to my own study. Again there were low levels of experience of crime to be noted as one would expect, however when asked if they knew of someone who had been a victim of a crime the figures escalated.[2] An example of this relationship would be that while only fifty percent of those surveyed were the victim of burglary a total of sixty-nine percent were aware of this fact. Again, only seven percent were the victim of vehicle theft yet fifty percent of those questioned knew a person who was a victim of this crime. This is a recurrent trend in the information that while overall there is little experience of actual crime the majority of respondents knew of someone who was a victim.

1) Ibid pg 405

2) Yarwood and Gardner, pg 406

This correlates with my own research very well (see Tables 6 and 7 to view history of crime statistics.)[1] Other issues of concern for the inhabitants were traffic and dogs, while drug taking and graffiti, often marks of fear of crime in large urban centres, were of little consequence to the respondents where it was cited that only one percent each thought it was a major problem in the area. This study correlates more closely with my own research than those of larger urban centres. This may be due to the similarities in mindset of the rural inhabitants and the students, many of whom come from a rural background. some improvements to the policing of the area was also warrrented according tonnearly seventy percent of the parishioners questioned compared to 18.3% of the students questioned in my own study. The provision of street lighting to the area is one of debate as some feel it would increase safety yet others feel it would ruin the rural character of the area. It is clear from this that there is a strong relationship between crime and rurality making it extremely difficult to police.

This study has compared more favourably with my own than the urban examples of fear of crime. As Maynooth is larger than the village researched in this study, a population of fifteen thousand plus compared to a population of two thousand. There are similarities in the experience of crime and the possible solutions although it has been a contentious issue in the rural area quoted above. As the study of rural areas in relation to fear of crime is limited these results do not prove conclusive but warrant further investigation.

3:4 MRBI Report

This survey is an Irish example of investigation into fear of crime and was carried out on behalf of The Irish Association For Victim Support. The main objectives for this survey were to measure the perception to which respondents think crime exists, the performance of the Gardaí and the extent to which people

_____

1) see pg 17

felt they were subject to particular crime types and the consequences these entail. This survey was conducted with one thousand representative people. The participants were asked whether or not they felt safe during the day or night[1] and while only nine percent of the respondents were said to feel very unsafe at night compared to one percent during the day this is representational of two hundred thousand people, one hundred of whom are female. This reveals the temporal nature of fear as discussed in my own findings and also a gender-bias which exists in fear of crime.

The role of Gardaí was also put before those partaking in the survey. Overall there is a good deal of satisfaction with their role. This does not apply to my own report however.

The report also showed that one fifth of those living in urban areas in Ireland had been burgled at the time of this report in 1987, this compares to just fifteen of the one hundred and twenty questioned in my survey. The lowest rates of this type of crime were recorded in the west and north and in rural areas in general.

When asked of the consequences to being a victim of crime the majority said they experienced anger more than anything. Further results of this can be seen in the following table:

Table 13

Experience of any of the following as a result of crime[2]

	Total %	Urban	Rural
Total	117	86	31
Anger	78%	77%	81%
Fear	30%	37%	10%
Depression	13%	16%	3%
Physical illness	3%	2%	3%
Difficulty in sleeping	11%	14%	3%
Fear of going outdoors	7%	9%	-%
None of them	11%	10%	%13

1) MRBI (1987) Tables Q.24A and Q.24B

2) MRBI Table Q.28, Filter: those who have been a victim of crime in past two years.

Fear is the second highest emotion after anger with thirty percent experiencing it as a result of being the victim of crime. Fear of going outdoors is not as pronounced as a general fear with only seven percent experiencing it as a whole. Just eleven percent are said to have suffered none of the ill-effects stated above which is a very small percentage.

This is the only example available to me on fear of crime in Ireland and although it may be considered dated it does support the trend of fear being an adverse reaction to victimisation.[1] Also the general levels of fear experienced and the differences in fear levels in day and night times are supportive to my own findings.

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1) see Tables 6 and 7 Chapter Two pg 17

Conclusion

4:1 Conclusion

The main objectives of the study I carried out were to invesigate the temporal nature of fear of crime in Maynooth, to source the information students have acquired on crime and to map[1] the spatial consequences of the fear experienced. As I have explained it was not possible to carry out a gender bias analysis at this stage. The lack of a comprehensive Irish study has meant that there is no real comparison available to predict trends across the country so there is a heavy reliance on British studies for information.

4:2 Temporality of Fear

As I have suggested there is a strong temporal nature to fear of crime as levels fluctuate between day and night times.[2] There is also the nature of entering 'dangerous places' in an unfamiliar neighbourhood as opposed to entering familiar territory. Each of the studies[3] I have compared my own findings with have shown the same temporality of fear of crime, some being more pronounced than others. The findings of the survey shows that indeed while students may feel at ease in a certain area during the day the same cannot be said for the night. The degree to which the lives of students are affected needs to be investigated further to fully understand the spatial implications they bring. The nature of this change in fear levels over short periods of time can be viewed on the maps,[4] where both the college campus and town are depicted showing fear levels for both day and night.

4:3 Sources of Information

The source of information on crime has an effect on the levels of fear experienced by people, the media tends to sensationalise events, such as

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1) See Appendix Three

2) See Tables 1-4 Chapter Two pgs

3) See Chapter Three

4) Ibid

physical and sexual violence in the public arena, that inspire fear in people while failing to report domestic violence sufficiently so as to promote increased awareness of this plight. Fear of crime, particularly that of women, tends to be located in the pubic sphere as a direct consequence of this reporting in the media even though they are actually more at risk in the home.

The main source the respondents in my survey quoted for general information was indeed the media, parents played a secondary role here through advisement on safety practices and the like. This is in contrast to the main source of information on crime in Maynooth where peers were said to be the number one source of information. This is due to the use of word of mouth to send information and while there may be some sensationalising of some of the events the students regard it as an invaluable provision of information.

What is surprising in this is the reduced role of the Gardaí in supplying information on crime, they are regarded as being almost obsolete in matters pertaining to crime in the university town with only 5.8% viewing them as the best source of crime information in Maynooth.

The maps relating to the spatial distribution of fear of crime in Maynooth[1] for both the university campus and the town areas can be seen in Appendix Three.

In conclusion, it is evident that a strong level of fear of crime is concentrated in a few clusters in the town and on-campus. The suggestions from the students to increase awareness and safety is to have better lighting installed on-campus and better information distributed amongst the student population to alert them to any dangers that may arise. While actual crime levels are low in the area fear of crime is high and thus affects the way students in this case negotiate public space and will continue to affect them. There is a need to follow the previous MRBI report to see if any fluctuations have occurred in the last fifteen

1) see Table 8 pg 19

years and to produce a meaningful report on both urban and rural areas.

APPENDIX ONE

Questionnaire Survey.

Hello, my name is Julia Conway and I am a Masters student in NUI Maynooth and I am conducting a survey on student's fear of crime and the spatial consequences of this fear. I would be grateful if you could take the time to fill out the following questionnaire. Thank you for your co-operation.

Q1. Are you ....?   Male ___   Female ___

Q2. To which age group do you belong?
          22yrs or under   ___
          23yrs or over   ___

Q3. How many years have you been studying in Maynooth?
(Please insert as appropriate)   ___

Q4. Where do you reside in Maynooth during the college year?
(Please state estate or street name, exact address not needed)

_____

Q5. What type of residence is this?
(Tick as appropriate)   Digs   ___
                      Self Catering   ___
                      Rented House   ___
                      On-Campus Accommodation   ___
                      Live at Home   ___
                      Other   ___

Now a few questions on crime.

Q6. Have you ever been a victim of crime?

_____

Q7. If yes, what sort of crime were you the victim of?
          House Burglary   ___
          Violent Attack   ___
          Mugging   ___
          Damage to Property   ___
          Other   ___

Q8. How often have you been the victim of such a crime?

_____

Q9. Have you ever been witness to a crime?
          House Burglary   ___
          Violent Attack   ___
          Mugging   ___
          Damage to Property   ___
          Other   ___

Q10. If yes, what sort of crime have you witnessed?

House Burglary ____
Violent Attack ____
Mugging ____
Damage to Property ____
Other ____

Q11. Are there any areas on -campus where you feel unsafe? Yes ____ No ____

Q12. If yes, please state for both day and night as appropriate?

Day _____

Night _____

Q13. Are there any areas in the town where you feel unsafe? Yes ____ No ____

Q14. If yes, please state for both day and night as appropriate?

Day _____

Night _____

Now a few questions on information sources

Q15. Which of these, would you say, provides you with the <u>most</u> information on crime?

Parents ____
Peers ____
Media ____
Gardaí ____
Other ____

Q16. Which of these, would you say, provides you with the <u>most</u> information on crime in Maynooth?

Parents ____
Peers ____
Media ____
Gardaí ____
Other ____

Q17. What do you think would best help improve student safety in Maynooth?

_____

Q18. Have you any other comments you wish to make?

_____

_____

_____

Once again, thank you very much for your co-operation.

APPENDIX TWO

Questionnaire Code-Book

Code-Book

Variable Name	Variable Label	Value Labels
QUESNO	identification number	enter as recorded on questionnaire
GENDER	respondent's gender	0 = missing 1 = male 2 = female
AGE	respondent's age	0 = missing 1 = 22yrs or under 2 = 23yrs or more
YRSTUD questionnaire	number of years studying	enter as stated on 0 = missing
RESIDE	respondent's residence in Maynooth	0 = missing 1 = Ashley Grove 2= Beaufield 3 = Brookfield 4 = Carton Court 5 = Castlebridge 6 = Castledawson 7 = Charter Hse Apts. 8 = Cluain Aoibhinn 9 = College Green 10= Greenfield Drive 11= Greenfield Estate 12= Kingsbry 13= Laurence Avenue 14= Leinster Court 15= Leinster Park 16= Leinster Street 17= Lyreen Park 18= Manor Court 19= Mariaville 20= Maynooth Park 21= Meadowbrook 22= Moyglare Abbey 23= Moyglare Meadows 24= Moyglare Village 25= Newtown 26= Newtown Court 27= Old Greenfield 28= O' Neill Park 29= Parklands

30= Parson's Court
31= Parson's Hall
32= Parson's Street
33= Pebble hill
34= Railpark
35= Rockfield
36= Silkenvale
37= Straffan Way
38= University Apts. 1
39= University Apts. 2
40= University Hostel
41= Woodlands
50= Other

TYPERES	type of residence	0 = missing
		1 = digs
		2 = self-catering
		3 = rented hse
		4 = on-campus accommodation
		5 = live at home
		9 = other
VICTIM	previous victim of crime	0 = missing
		1 = yes
		2 = no
TYPECRIM	type of crime committed	0 = missing
		1 = hse burglary
		2 = violent attack
		3 = mugging
		4 = damage to property
		5 = other
		9 = inapplicable
FREQ	frequency of victimisation	0 = missing
		1 = never
		2 = more than once less than three
		3 = more than three
		9 = inapplicable
WITCRIM	witness to a crime	0 = missing
		1 = yes
		2 = no
WITTYPE	type of crime witnessed	0 = missing
		1 = hse burglary
		2 = violent attack
		3 = mugging
		4 = damage to property
		5 = other
		9 = inapplicable

CAMPFEAR	areas where you feel unsafe on-campus	0 = missing 1 = yes 2 = no
DAYCAMP	areas during day on-campus	0 = missing 1 = old-campus 2 = logic hse 3 = rhetoric hse 4 = St. Joseph's square 5 = library 6 = student bar 7 = arts block 8 = apts. access path 11= other 12= inapplicable
NITECAMP	areas during night on-campus	0 = missing 1 = old-campus 2 = logic hse 3 = rhetoric hse 4 = St. Joseph's square 5 = library 6 = student bar 7 = arts block 8 = apts. access path 11= other 12= inapplicable
TOWNFEAR	areas of fear in town	0 = missing 1 = yes 2 = no
TOWNDAY	areas in town during day	0 = missing 1 = canal 2 = housing estates 3 = doctors lane 4 = train station 5 = Moyglare road 6 = other 9 = inapplicable
TOWNNITE	areas in town during night	0 = missing 1 = canal 2 = housing estates 3 = doctors lane 4 = train station 5 = moyglare road 6 = other

		9 = inapplicable
GENINFO	general source of crime information	0 = missing 1 = parents 2 = peers 3 = media 4 = gardaí 5 = other
MAYINFO	source of information on Crime in Maynooth	0 = missing 1 = parents 2 = peers 3 = media 4 = gardaí 5 = other
IMPROVE	improvements to be made	0 = missing 1 = greater garda/security presence 2 = better lighting 3 = security phones 4 = more information/ crime bulletins 5 = other

—

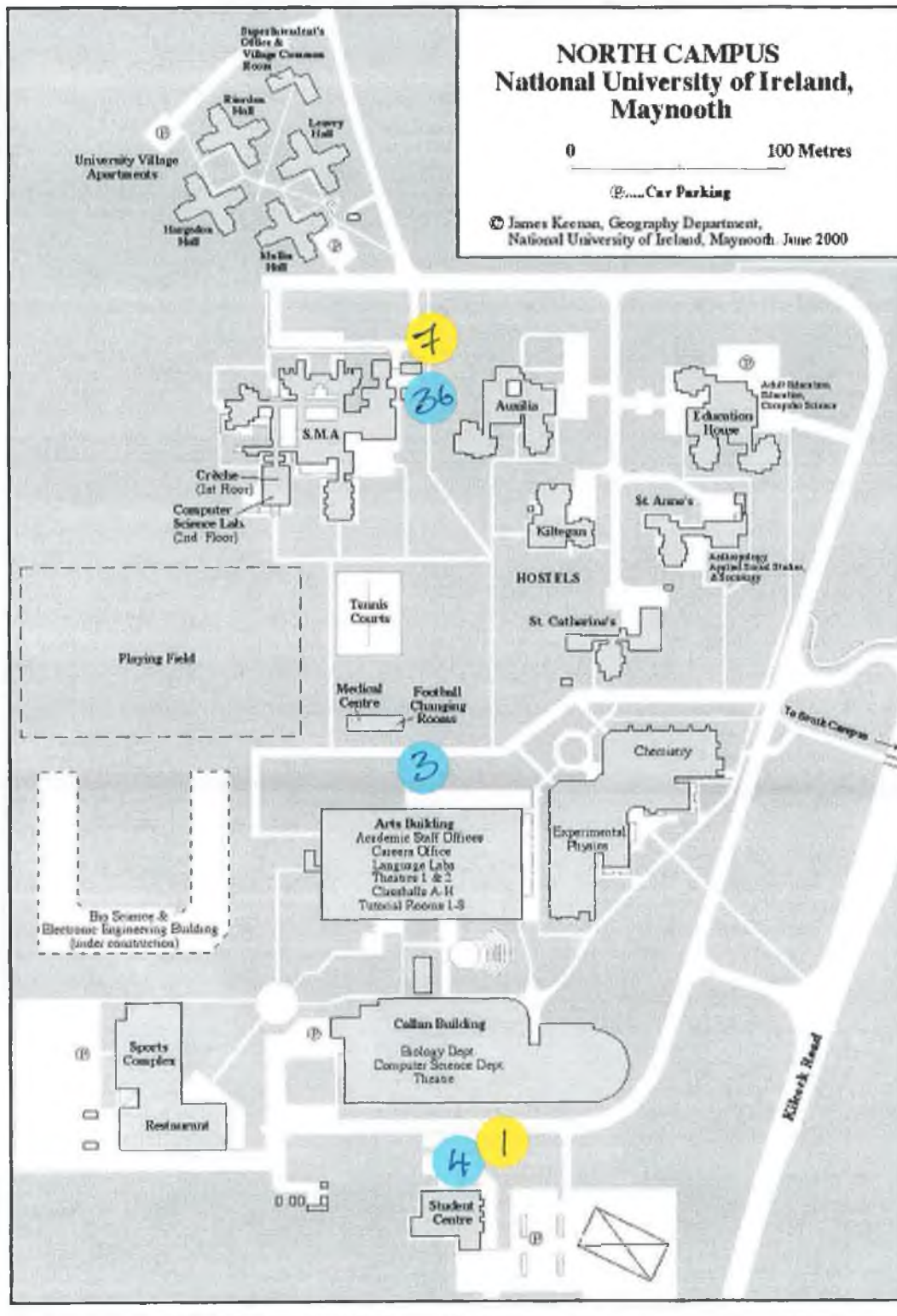# Appendix
Three

Maps

Areas of fear on campus
day & night

Maps: North Campus

NORTH CAMPUS
National University of Ireland,
Maynooth

0   100 Metres

℗.....Car Parking

© James Keenan, Geography Department,
National University of Ireland, Maynooth. June 2000

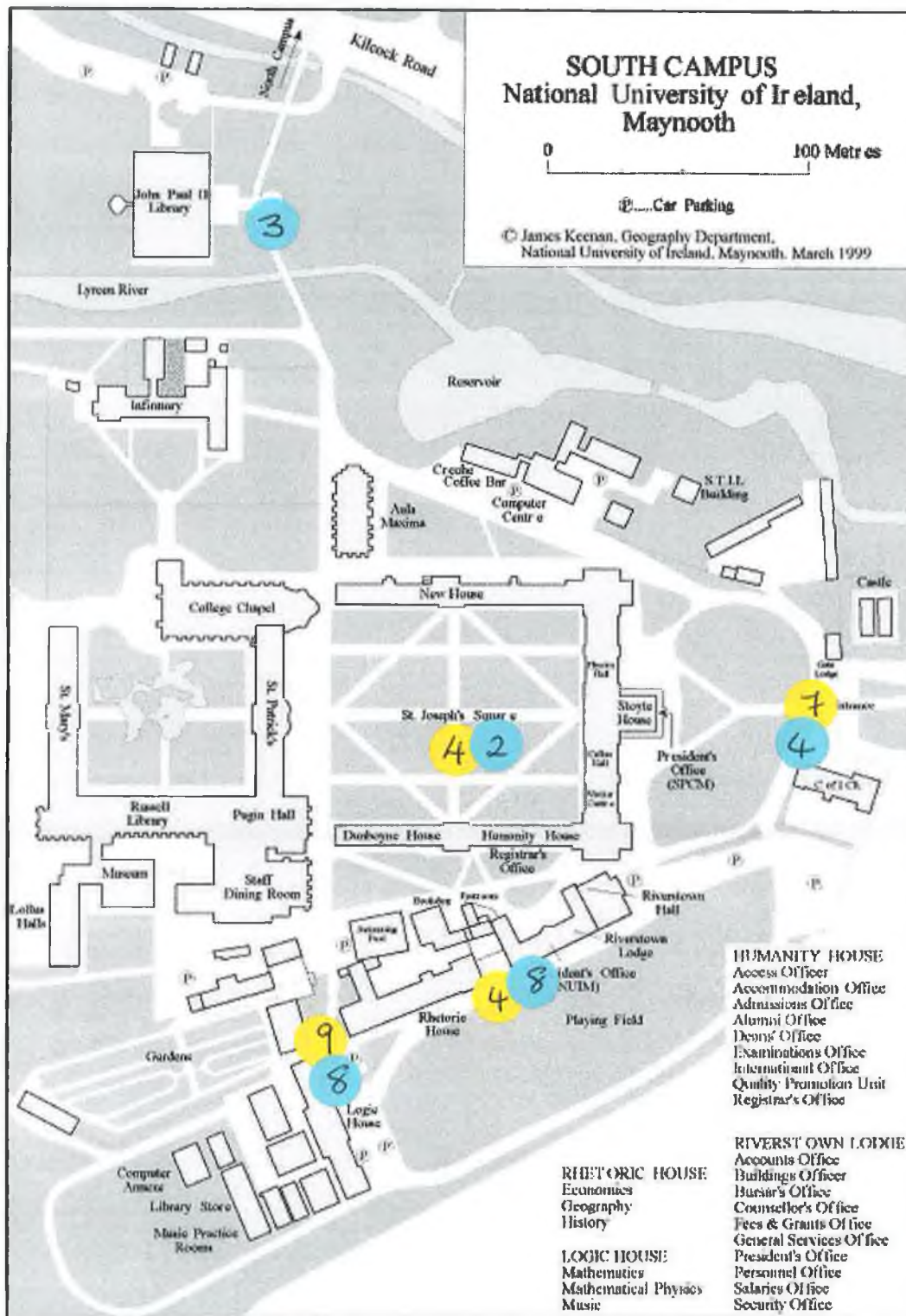## Select another campus map:

- North Campus
- South Campus
- Fire Assembly Points - North Campus
- Fire Assembly Points - South Campus
- Parking North Campus

South Campus

SOUTH CAMPUS
National University of Ireland,
Maynooth

0   100 Metres

℗....Car Parking

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National University of Ireland, Maynooth. March 1999

HUMANITY HOUSE
Access Office
Accommodation Office
Admissions Office
Alumni Office
Deans' Office
Examinations Office
International Office
Quality Promotion Unit
Registrar's Office

RIVERSTOWN LODGE
Accounts Office
Buildings Officer
Bursar's Office
Counsellor's Office
Fees & Grants Office
General Services Office
President's Office
Personnel Office
Salaries Office
Security Office

RHETORIC HOUSE
Economics
Geography
History

LOGIC HOUSE
Mathematics
Mathematical Physics
Music

Select another campus map:

- North Campus
- South Campus
- Fire Assembly Points - North Campus
- Fire Assembly Points - South Campus
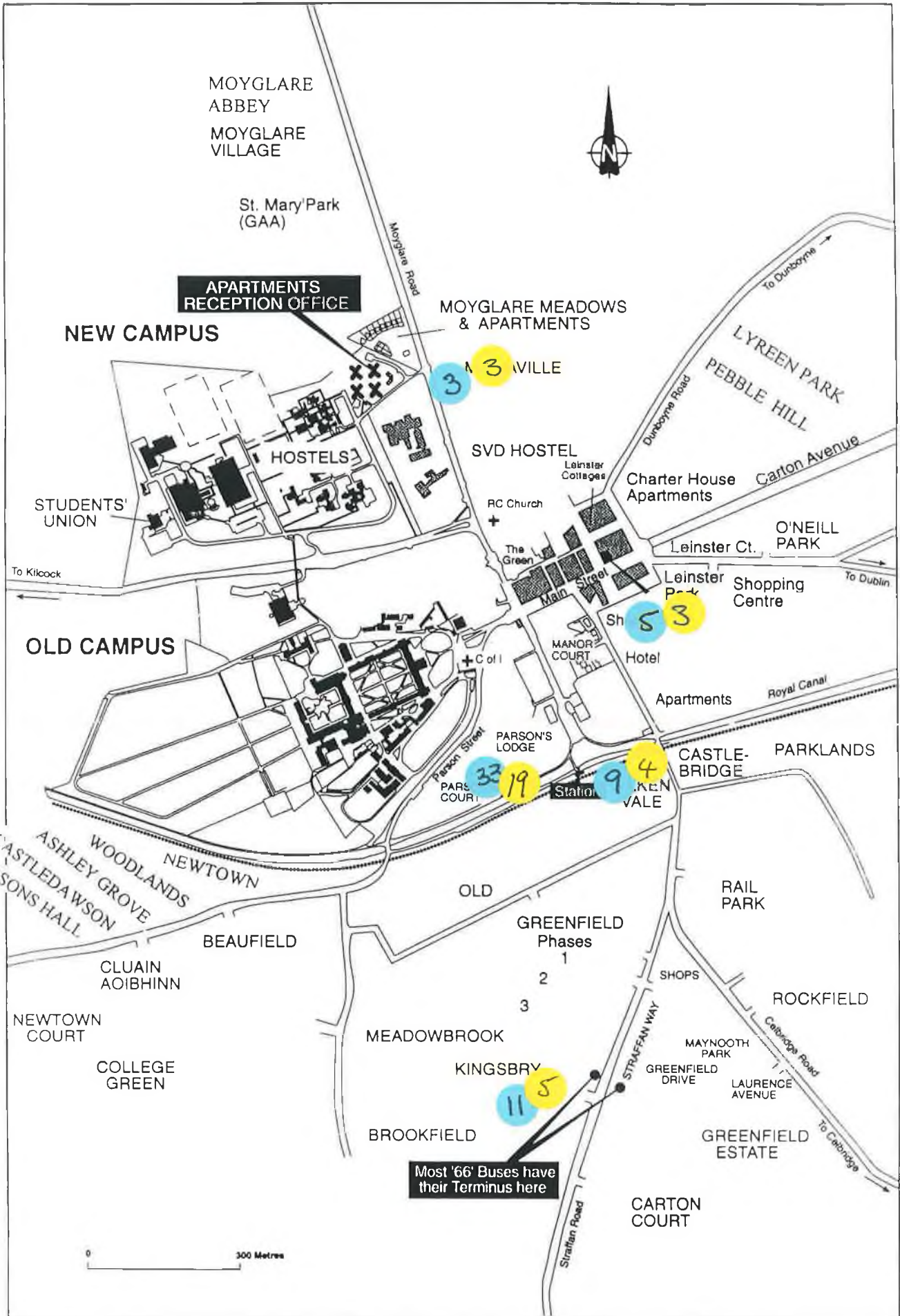- Parking North Campus

*Areas of fear in town
day & night*

Legend

● = *day*

● = *night*

x= *frequency*

MOYGLARE
ABBEY

MOYGLARE
VILLAGE

St. Mary'Park
(GAA)

NEW CAMPUS

APARTMENTS
RECEPTION OFFICE

MOYGLARE MEADOWS
& APARTMENTS

LYREEN PARK

PEBBLE HILL

To Dunboyne

3 3 VILLE

HOSTELS

SVD HOSTEL

Leinster
Cottages

Charter House
Apartments

Carton Avenue

STUDENTS'
UNION

RC Church

O'NEILL
PARK

To Kilcock

The
Green

Leinster Ct.

Main Street

Leinster
Park

Shopping
Centre

To Dublin

OLD CAMPUS

C of I

MANOR
COURT

Sh

8 3

Hotel

PARSON'S
LODGE

Apartments

Royal Canal

Parson Street

33 19

PARS
COURT

Station

9 4

CASTLE-
BRIDGE

PARKLANDS

VALE

WOODLANDS

NEWTOWN

ASHLEY GROVE

CASTLEDAWSON

PARSONS HALL

BEAUFIELD

OLD

GREENFIELD
Phases
1

2

3

RAIL
PARK

SHOPS

ROCKFIELD

CLUAIN
AOIBHINN

NEWTOWN
COURT

MEADOWBROOK

KINGSBRY

STRAFFAN WAY

MAYNOOTH
PARK

GREENFIELD
DRIVE

Calbridge Road

LAURENCE
AVENUE

To Celbridge

COLLEGE
GREEN

11 5

BROOKFIELD

Most '66' Buses have
their Terminus here

GREENFIELD
ESTATE

CARTON
COURT

Straffan Road

0   300 Metres

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