

Michael J. Bannon Obituary

Michael J. Bannon (1940 – 2019) was born and grew up in west County Cavan. Having obtained a BA in Geography and Archaeology at University College Dublin, he married Pauline Gorman and they emigrated to Edmonton, Canada where he undertook a master's degree at the University of Alberta before returning in 1967 with new baby Michelle to join the staff of An Foras Forbartha, the national institute for physical planning and construction research. Here Michael was involved in some of the earliest Irish planning research. He was awarded a PhD in 1972 by Trinity College Dublin for his innovative work on the structure and development of office activities, a condensed version of which was published by the Foras in 1973 under the title *Office Location in Ireland : the role of Central Dublin*.

In 1974, Michael made the logical transition to academia, joining the staff of the embryonic Planning School in UCD where his particular research and teaching interests were planning history and regional development. His edited collections of essays, *The Emergence of Irish Planning 1880-1920* (1984) and *Planning: the Irish Experience 1920-1988* (1989), will be well known to all members of the IPI who are graduates of the MRUP degree programme. He established the Services Industries' Research Centre in UCD Richview and was much in demand as an evaluator for national and European projects.

In 1996, Michael was appointed Professor of Regional and Urban Planning. In this position, he oversaw the doubling of student numbers to meet the demand for professional planners during the boom period of the Celtic Tiger era and also established a doctoral research programme in planning. Even after his formal retirement in 2002, he continued to contribute his expertise to studio projects in the Planning School.

Michael and Pauline had five children, two daughters and three sons, and lived in Clontarf where his funeral Mass was celebrated on 21 December in St. Anthony's Church.

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