

Irish Latin American Research Fund Application Form

Name	Garret Maher
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University or institutional affiliation (if any)	Geography Department, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland.
Member of the Faculty?	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, rank:
Student?	Undergraduate <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Principal advisor or thesis director: Dr. Mary Cawley
Independent Scholar?	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Intended Product	Thesis <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Book <input type="checkbox"/> Article <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (describe)
Date degree expected or date of project completion	I commenced the research in September 2007. The project is to be completed by September 2010
Title or research topic (please include the time period being studied):	<u>TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATION: BRAZILIAN EXPERIENCES IN IRELAND</u> This project will research the extent to which practices of transnational migration are played out, by studying how recent Brazilian immigrants live their lives in small and medium sized towns in Ireland while maintaining close links to their areas of origin in Brazil.
How did you learn about this research grant opportunity? (Please be specific)	I read the article "Carnaval do Galway: The Brazilian community in Gort, 1999-2006" by Claire Healy on the Society's website. I then looked through the website more thoroughly and noticed the grant application information.
Proposed field trip: purpose, destination, dates of travel and proposed duration of stay (may be changed)	I intend to visit Annapolis, the region Annapolis in Brazil from which the majority of migrants have come, and engage with returnees and their families in April – June 2009, in order to study the impact of remittances (e.g. home improvement, debt reduction, local enterprise) and the migration process in the context of transnational identity formation. This research forms part of a larger PhD project on Transnational Migration.
Estimate of actual expenses; please provide details of air, automobile, bus, rail, or other expenses and local accommodations (please add an itemized budget):	Return flights from Ireland to Brasilia will cost approximately €1100. From Brasilia I will need to get a bus to Annapolis which is a distance of about 85 miles, a return bus fare will cost €20. I intend to stay a minimum of one month in order to engage competently and build trust among return migrants and their families whom I will speak to. I will stay in very basic accommodation and this should cost no more than €20 per night. Food costs will be no more than €5 per day.
Amount of grant support requested (in Euros)	1,000

Before submitting the application, did you attach:

- ✓ Your Project Description (max. 3 pages)?
- ✓ Your Curriculum Vitae (max. 3 pages)?
- ✓ Your Itemised Budget (1 page)?
- ✓ Your photo?
- ✓ UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS: A letter of recommendation from your principal faculty advisor (may be mailed separately)?
- ✓ The signed Grantee Agreement?
- ✓ Did you ensure that your research project is undoubtedly relevant within the Scope of Study of the Society for Irish Latin American Studies, i.e., "the migration of people from Ireland to Latin America, their settlement, lives, and achievements, as well as those of their descendants, together with contemporary presence of Ireland and people of Irish ancestry in the life and culture of Latin America, and the presence of Latin Americans in Ireland"?

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Signature Garret Maher Date 14/3/08

The application must be received (or postmarked) on or before the established deadline at:

The Society for Irish Latin American Studies
Maison Rouge
1268 Burtigny
Switzerland

PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR APPLICATION VIA EMAIL.

Section A: Description of the topic including aims and objectives and central research questions

This research project will investigate the various ways in which Brazilian migrants in Ireland are active in, and contribute to, the life of their community in both Ireland and Brazil. The primary aim is to gain a better understanding and expand current knowledge of transnationalism, by looking at the various ways in which Brazilian migrants in Ireland organise numerous dimensions of their lives and contribute to their community in rural towns of Ireland, while at the same time maintaining links with their own community in Brazil. Transnationalism, as defined by Basch *et al.* (1994: 22), is "a process by which migrants, through their daily life activities...create social fields that cross national boundaries."

The project will contribute to the literature relating to labour migration to rural areas and transnationalism. Key objectives include gaining a better understanding of Brazilian migrant groups in Ireland, examining the role of transnationalism in their daily lives focusing specifically on the role of social networks in their decision to migrate from Brazil to Ireland, the use of remittances, and the extent to which cultural habits have been transplanted, leading to the creation of transnational identities.

There are a number of central research issues which will be addressed:

a) Recruitment:

How were the majority of Brazilians living in both Gort and Roscommon (the selected study sites) initially recruited and how does this process continue (via networks)? This will involve discussion with employers, migrants and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

b) Extent and modes of integration locally:

Evidence suggests that the Brazilians are one of the most integrated ethnic groups living in Ireland (Healy, 2006). What are the extent and methods of integration locally (in so far as this occurs)? The project will examine what factors encourage this integration by engaging with pertinent Irish agencies (e.g. Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment; and Galway County Council) and the migrants involved in the integration process.

c) Practices of transnationalism:

In order to ascertain what, if any transnational links exist between Brazilians in Ireland and their home country, I will conduct interviews with individual Brazilians, key informants (such as community leaders), their employers, representatives of the local community, including clergy who provide religious services for the Brazilians, social workers, and trade union representatives. Such in depth qualitative analysis will provide vital insights into the immigrant experience in Ireland and how that experience shapes and is shaped by practices of transnationalism.

d) Impacts of remittances in areas of origin:

What are the role and uses of remittances in the migrants' area of origin? This will be investigated by visiting specific areas in Brazil from which the majority of Brazilians living in Ireland come.

The project will mainly examine transnational practices among male Brazilian migrants working in the meat packing industry, who live and work in two small towns in the west of Ireland, and the resultant impact of their migration on these towns and their areas of origin. The towns of Gort, County Galway and Roscommon are ideal

research sites as they both contain a high number of Brazilians. In order to truly understand transnational practices, it is necessary to visit the sending community in Brazil. Such an approach will facilitate an investigation of the impacts of remittances (e.g. home improvement, debt reduction, local enterprise) in these areas.

This project is relevant in the context of a rapidly changing demographic mosaic in Ireland. The success of the Brazilian community in integrating locally while retaining transnational ties will provides insights into the migration process that will aid policy makers in creating successful programs for the integration of other migrant groups in Ireland. Furthermore, a more in depth understanding of the processes of transnationalism will greatly benefit the body of research addressing this issue.

The SIILAS grant will help expedite this research project by providing much needed funds to undertake a vital aspect of the research. By enabling me to visit Annapolis in Brazil and conduct in depth interviews with returning migrants, a clearer picture of the Brazilian immigration experience, the impact of remittances, and the practice of transnationalism will emerge.