

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY



# Colloquium Series

Edward J. Taaffe Human Geography Colloquium

## Soft Cities: Software and the Remaking of the City

**Rob Kitchin**

Director of the National Institute of Regional and Spatial Analysis  
National University of Ireland, Maynooth  
Chair, Management Board of the Irish Social Sciences Platform

The first half of this talk examines how cities and city life have become increasingly reliant on software to function, with code to varying degrees conditioning everyday life. Using a number of examples, it is demonstrated how software is evermore embedded into objects and controls systems with respect to spatial arenas such as the home and workplace, and spatial systems such as transportation networks. The second half of the paper theorises the difference that software makes to the world, arguing that a key effect is to beckon new spatial formations into existence. Software transduces space leading to the conditions of code/space and coded space - spaces that are reliant on software for their evolving nature. In so doing, an ontogenetic conception of space is forwarded.

**1080 Derby Hall, 3:30-5:00pm**

**Tuesday, October 13**

**Reception to Follow in Derby Hall Foyer**