

NUJ

DUBLIN

FREELANCE

Freelance Forum Spring 2022

Photographers/Writers/PR

Supported by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland



Venue: Room EQ-116, Grangegorman East Quad building,
Technology University Dublin, Grangegorman, Dublin 7.

Date: Monday 11 April 2022

Cost: €5 (tax-deductible) to NUJ members, non-members €10.

Spaces are limited so book early

Book online now at <https://dublinfreelance.org/freelance-forum-spring-2022/>

Enquiries Gerard Cunningham dublinfreelancenuj@gmail.com 086-6073060

Or send your registration fee to: Helen Taylor, NUJ, Second Floor, Spencer House, Spencer Row, off Talbot Street, Dublin 1. Mark envelope Freelance Forum.

All sessions open to writers, photographers, PR practitioners

NOTE: All speakers appear in a personal capacity.

Registration: 9.30AM- 10.00AM

FFP2 protective masks will be provided at registration

Opening Address: 10.00AM – 10.30AM

Life After Covid: Adjusting to the New Normal

Padraig O'Morain, writer and psychotherapist

Session 1: 10.30AM – 11.30AM

Book-writing for journalists

Speakers: **Rachael English**, Journalist, broadcaster and author
Cormac O'Keeffe, Journalist and author

Chair: **Margaret Ward**, Freelance Journalist

The session will cover the art, craft and business of fiction writing from the perspective of a working journalist.

Session 2: 11.30AM – 12.00PM

Rory Byrne on cyber security, from phones and laptops to email and web.

Session 3: 12.00PM – 1.00PM

Commissioning Editors: What they want in a pitch

Speakers: **Deirdre O'Shaughnessy**, News Editor, Irish Examiner
Sam Trantum, Co-Founder, Dublin Inquirer

Chair: **Berni Dwan**, Freelance Journalist

Lunch 1.00PM

Because of the Easter break, restaurant facilities on the Grangegorman TUD campus may not be available. Lunch is available in nearby cafes, coffee shops etc, but it may also be worth bringing along a packed lunch or sandwich. Wherever you go, take the time to introduce yourself to someone new, and catch up with old faces. Networking is also an aim of the Freelance Forum events.

We understand that as working journalists everyone may not be able to attend all sessions.

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Padraig O Morain is a writer and psychotherapist. He has practiced mindfulness for a quarter of a century. During that time, he has trained a wide variety of people in mindfulness – from accountants to search-and-rescue crew – in both Ireland and the UK. Previously he worked for The Irish Times, covering health and social affairs. His books on mindfulness have been published in several countries and languages.

Rachael English is an Irish broadcaster and writer. Known for presenting Five Seven Live for six years, she has also presented other radio shows, such as RTÉ News at One, Today with Pat Kenny, The Marian Finucane Show and The Late Debate as well as a permanent presenter of Morning Ireland and Saturday View. She is the author of six novels, most recently The Letter Home.

Cormac O’Keeffe is the security correspondent with the Irish Examiner. His debut crime fiction novel 'Black Water' was published in April 2018.

Margaret Ward is a freelance journalist and researcher with a particular interest in the environment and international affairs. She worked for RTÉ for 18 years as a reporter, producer, and foreign editor. She has reported from more than 35 countries including Rwanda, Sudan, the Balkans, Afghanistan, Russia, North Korea and Libya, and spent three years based in Beijing. She has also contributed to The Irish Times, The Sunday Telegraph, India Today, the BBC’s “From our Own Correspondent” and CBC in Canada. She has most recently been a special advisor to the Green Party leader Eamon Ryan.

Deirdre O’Shaughnessy is News Editor of the Irish Examiner. She worked as a journalist for 15 years in local print and broadcast media in Limerick, Galway and Cork. As a freelancer she has written news, features and opinion for the Sunday Business Post, Irish Times, the Herald and Irish Tatler. She has contributed regularly to TV and radio shows in Ireland, as well as NPR and BBC radio. Deirdre has twice received a Simon Cumbers Media Fund Bursary. She has an LLB in Law & European studies from UL and a MSc in Government from UCC.

Sam Trantum is co-founder and deputy editor of Dublin Inquirer, a local independent newspaper publishing online weekly and in print monthly. He is also editor at Four Courts Press, publishing primarily academic Irish history books. Before moving to Ireland in 2013, he worked as a reporter in West Virginia, Florida and Washington DC, worked as a newspaper editor in Kolkata, India, and taught journalism at the American University of Central Asia, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Rory Byrne is the founder of Security First, an organisation that specialises in helping journalists and activists manage their digital and physical security. His work has ranged from dealing with nation state attacks on media organisations to responding to the kidnap of freelance journalists in the field.

Berni Dwan teaches, writes, and makes radio programmes. She instigated three shows in Scene + Heard in Smock Alley -*Unrhymed Dublin*, *The Seven Ages*; *Like It or Not*, and *A Fishy Tail of Sound and Fury*. Her poems have been published in *Poetry Ireland Review* and *Irish Times New Irish Writing*, among others. Berni’s first collection, *Frankly Baby* (2018), and her second collection, *Only Lookin’* (2021) were published by Lapwing Poetry, Belfast. In 2017, Berni was second place winner in the Johnathan Swift Poetry Award. In 2019 she was shortlisted for the Anthony Cronin International Poetry Award. Berni’s radio series, *The A to Z of Historical Blunders* was broadcast on Near FM 90.3. Another series, *Oldfilibuster’s Rhyme & Reason* was broadcast during lockdown. Berni was involved with co-writing a BAI funded radio drama, *Alarm Bells*, which was broadcast in December 2021 on Near FM. She is currently working on three BAI funded radio series - *Growing Up Between the Dustjackets*, *Hedge Schools Beyond the Shrubbery*, and *Hungry Gap, Fat Friars & Food Poverty*.