

NUJ

DUBLIN

FREELANCE

Freelance Forum Spring 2023

Photographers/Writers/PR

Supported by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland



Venue: Room EQ-002, East Quad bldg, Technology University Dublin, Grangegorman, Dublin 7.

Date: Monday 3 April 2023

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-2023/>

Enquiries Gerard Cunningham dublinfreelancenuj@gmail.com 086-6073060

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

The Future For Journalism

Susan McKay, Press Ombudsman

Session 1: 10.30AM – 11.45AM

Neart Le Chéile: Co-operatives for journalists

Speakers: **Dr Bridget Carroll**, Centre for Co-operative Studies, University College Cork

Darragh Walshe, ICOS Legal & Development Executive

Ciarán Murray, Near Media Co-op coordinator

Chair: **Berni Dwan**, freelance journalist

The session will cover opportunities for journalists in setting up Co-Op and other structures to capitalise on Local Democracy funds from Coimisiún na Meán.

Session 2: 11.45AM – 1.00PM

Mind Yourself: Mental Health and Freelance Journalism

Speakers: **Dr Shubhangi Karmakar**, academic and hospital doctor

Áine O'Meara, Headline programme leader

Chair: **Kieran Fagan**, freelance journalist

The session will cover issues facing journalists in dealing with what had become an ever more stressful career, and the particular challenges of isolation, often compounded by Covid precautions.

Lunch 1.00PM

Lunch is available in nearby cafes and coffee shops, 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.

Session 3: 2.00PM – 3.15PM

FOI: Information Wants to be Free?

Speakers: **Richard Dowling**, RTÉ FOI Decision Maker

Niall Sargent, The Journal/Noteworthy

Chair: **Robert Dunne**, freelance journalist

The session will cover issues facing journalists seeking public information under FOI, AIE and other regulations.

Session 4: 3.15PM – 4.30PM

Pitching to the Popular Press

Speakers: **Eddie Coffey**, Editor, Irish Daily Mail

David Coughlan, Sports Editor, Irish Daily Star

Chair: **Stephanie Costello**, freelance journalist

The session will cover pitching in the current newspaper environment, and the art of the pitch, with particular emphasis on popular news media.

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



Freelance Forum Autumn 2023

Photographers/Writers/PR
Supported by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland



Susan McKay is an experienced journalist, and the Press Ombudsman since October 2022.

Dr Bridget Carroll lectures and researches in the areas of co-operative organisation/business across a range of areas. She is a lecturer in the Dept. of Food Business & Development and researcher in the Centre for Co-operative Studies in University College Cork. Bridget is regularly invited to address and work with/provide assistance to groups on the potential role of co-operatives in various settings.

Darragh Walshe is a legal executive and trainee barrister with more than 10 years of experience. He has been legal and development executive with the Irish Co-operative Organisation Society (ICOS) for five years and has been advising new and established co-operatives of all sizes and activities on structuring and corporate governance matters.

Ciarán Murray is Near Media Co-op coordinator, and one of the founders of the Dublin Community Television co-operative. He is involved in productions ranging from current affairs to multi-cultural and drama. He is also the former President of the Community Media Forum of Europe.

Berni Dwan teaches, writes, performs, and makes radio programmes. She has had three productions in Smock Alley's Scene + Heard Festival - *Unrhymed Dublin*, *The Seven Ages*; *Like It or Not*, and *A Fishy Tale of Sound and Fury*. Her poems have been widely published. Her first collection, *Frankly Baby*, and her second collection, *Only Lookin'* were both published by Lapwing Poetry, Belfast. Berni has received BAI funding for six literary and historical radio projects; two have been broadcast and she is currently working on four.

Kieran Fagan is a freelance journalist and media consultant. Previously he worked for the Irish Times, Irish Independent and Sunday Tribune, and for Carr Communications. He is currently treasurer of Dublin Freelance NUJ branch. He recently published *Who Killed Patricia Curran?* as an ebook available on Kindle.

Dr Shubhangi Karmakar is an award-winning Academic and Hospital Doctor with research, leadership, clinical and policymaking interests in multi-disciplinary care, and crisis psychiatry service development. Dr Karmakar holds an interest in the Law and Medical Ethics, particularly Patent, Biotech, Ethics of Consent and Capacity Law, in public, academic and private sectors, and is an academic editor and regular contributor to the Medical Independent, Sunday Business Post, and Irish Tatler among others.

Áine O'Meara works for Shine and leads their Headline programme. Headline is the national media programme for responsible reporting and representation of mental ill health. Before joining Headline, Áine spent over 15 years working in broadcasting in both live programming, documentary and international news. Her interests include media policy and practice, newsroom culture and journalists' mental health.

Richard Dowling is the FOI Decision Maker for RTÉ. He was previously RTE's North East correspondent, a news editor, and an editor of Morning Ireland. He is the author of "Secrets of the State and how to get them".

Niall Sargent is an investigative reporter for Noteworthy, and a specialist in FOI and AIE. He led an FOI webinar for Noteworthy gave late last year on it and also teaches on the subject in Griffith College.

Robert Dunne worked for almost five years with Storyful News Agency, which pioneered using OSINT in journalism. Last year he was a Global Intelligence Analyst for AlertMedia, applying newsgathering and copywriting skills to running a SaaS application keeping businesses safe. He is a research and communications officer in the Seanad Éireann (Senate).

Eddie Coffey began his journalistic career in the Longford Leader under the late Eugene McGee, reporting there and becoming deputy editor. He worked at the Nationalist in Carlow in 1991 and was the first editor of the Kildare Nationalist when it launched in 1992. He became editor of the Carlow Nationalist in 1997, and moved to the Mail group in 2008. He has worked both Mail titles and is editor of the Irish Daily Mail since October 2019.

David Coughlan is from Dublin and is Sports Editor of the Irish Daily Star. He was named Sportswriter of the Year (Popular) in 2018 and 2022 and has been shortlisted a further five times for national journalism awards, including nominations for Feature Writer of the Year (Popular) and Columnist of the Year (Popular). David has also produced programmes for RTÉ's Documentary on One series and his radio work has been shortlisted for the New York Festivals Radio Awards and Celtic Media Awards.

Stephanie Costello is a journalist, PhD candidate, and assistant lecturer at TU Dublin's School of Media. She currently covers the jobs beat for the Dublin Inquirer and previously served as the Editor-in-Chief of the paper. Her work can be found in national and international media outlets, such as The Irish Times, RTÉ, UTV, Dazed Digital, and Hotpress Magazine. Her research is concerned with trust and transparency in Irish media through the lens of social class.