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Can Digital Deliver For Democracy?

Standards, choice and access in the news media

Cleraun Media Conferences *in partnership with the Carnegie UK Trust*

SEMINAR

Tuesday, 8 November 2011

CLERAUN
MEDIA
CONFERENCES

CarnegieUK
TRUST
CHANGING MINDS • CHANGING LIVES

From 18.00 to 20.30 (followed by a reception)

ADMISSION FREE

Cleraun University Centre, 90 Foster Avenue, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin

Sponsorship from the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (www.bai.ie) is gratefully acknowledged.

Chair:



Emily O'Reilly was appointed to a second six year term as Ombudsman and Information Commissioner by President Mary McAleese in 2009. As Ombudsman, she is also an ex-officio member of the Standards in Public Office Commission, the Referendum Commission, the Constituency Commission and the Commission for Public Service Appointments. In 2007, she was assigned the additional role of Commissioner for Environmental Information. Prior to her initial appointment in 2003, she spent many years as a political correspondent with prominent print and broadcasting media. In 2008 she was awarded a Doctor of Laws by the National University of Ireland in recognition of her contribution to public service and to human rights.

Speakers:



Blair Jenkins has been Director of Broadcasting at Scottish Television (STV), and Head of News and Current Affairs at both STV and BBC Scotland. He chaired the Scottish Broadcasting Commission in 2007-8 and recently the Scottish Digital Network Panel. In 2010 he was made an OBE for services to broadcasting and appointed Visiting Professor in Journalism at Strathclyde University. A Fellow of the Carnegie UK Trust, he is completing a report on ethical standards in news, the increasing importance of local media, and the need to improve the training of journalists. He addressed the Cleraun Media Forum in 2009 on 'Public service broadcasting — a new vision for Scotland: raising standards, strengthening cultural links, creating jobs'.



Bob Collins is Chair of the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland and has been Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland since 2005. A former Director-General of RTÉ (1997-2003), he was also Director of Television Programmes at the national broadcaster and extensively involved with the European Broadcasting Union. Among other engagements, he has served on the boards of the National Library, the National Concert Hall and the Ulster Orchestra.

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Speakers (Continued):



Kevin O'Sullivan was appointed Editor of The Irish Times in June 2011. He had previously been News Editor (2006-2011), Night Editor (2005-2006), Founding Editor of Healthplus supplement (2004-2005), Special Projects Editor (2000-2004), Deputy/Assistant News Editor (2000-2001), and Environmental & Food Science Correspondent (1997-1999). Before joining The Irish Times, he worked with the Connacht Tribune and the Tuam Herald. He has a degree in microbiology and biochemistry from UCD, and a graduate diploma in journalism from DCU. He has a particular interest in the environment, science and technology. He directed a theatre production in Galway to mark the 75th anniversary of 1916.



Mick Fealty has become one of Ireland's most prominent political bloggers. His award-winning website, Slugger O'Toole, with about 63,000 unique visitors per month, has a reputation for generating robust engagement. Its golden rule — 'play the ball and not the man' — is acknowledged as a significant key to generating intelligent conversations online. A Northern Ireland survey revealed that 96% of MLAs read the blog "regularly" or "occasionally". Via his 'Slugger Consults' agency, he mentors influential 'digital refugees' and helps opinion leaders who are struggling to understand the new grammar of online communication. He has also written on politics and culture for The Irish Times, The Guardian, The Financial Times and The Daily Telegraph.

Cleraun Media Conferences (www.cleraunmedia.com) started in 1986 and now constitute an important forum where media practitioners can address and discuss ethical and professional issues which arise in their work in a positive and constructive way. The 2010 conference received sponsorship from the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, RTÉ, The Irish Times, the Irish Film Board, the Press Council of Ireland, the Goethe-Institut in Dublin, the Radharc Trust, and the Irish Farmers' Journal. Cleraun is a university centre and residence for third-level students, where doctrinal and spiritual activities are entrusted to Opus Dei (www.opusdei.ie), a prelature of the Catholic Church.

The Carnegie UK Trust: an independent, endowed charitable trust, established in 1913 and incorporated by Royal Charter, which seeks to improve the lives and wellbeing of people throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland through influencing public policy and demonstrating innovative practice. Its "Future of News" project builds on the findings of its 2010 report "Making Good Society" (<http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/publications/2010/making-good-society>), recognising the vital link between news and democracy. "Regulation of the press – nine key questions for civil society" will be published shortly.

Booking:

While attendance is free, prior registration is required – simply email your name to info@cleraunmedia.com.

Getting to Cleraun:

- As the seminar start time coincides with rush-hour traffic, please plan accordingly.
- Limited on-street parking is available in the general vicinity, but please ensure that you are legally parked and not blocking any gateways. Parking is also available in the general vicinity of Mount Merrion church, which is about 8 minutes' walk from Cleraun.
- Buses which pass nearby: 2, 3, 11, 17, 46a



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