

# Speaker Biographies

## **Mary Aiken, Adjunct Associate Professor, University College Dublin, Ireland**



Professor Mary Aiken is a cyberpsychologist and Adjunct Associate Professor at the Geary Institute for Public Policy, University College Dublin. Mary has advised at national and European level in policy debates at the intersection of technology and human behaviour and has published and spoken internationally on this topic. She is an Academic Advisor (Psychology) to Europol's European Cyber Crime Centre (EC3) and is the former Director of the Royal College of Surgeons Cyberpsychology Research Centre. Mary's current research interests include Internet psychology, AI, human factors in cybersecurity, Healthtech, cyber behavioural profiling, behavioural manipulation online, youth protection and age verification online, along with the impact of technology on the developing child.

In 2016, Mary was named as one of the top 50 most inspiring women in technology in Europe. In 2017, she was inducted into the Infosecurity Europe Hall of Fame, in recognition of her contribution to the information and cybersecurity sector. In 2018, she led the campaign for an Irish Digital Age of Consent of 16. Mary's work as a cyberpsychologist inspired the CBS primetime television series CSI: Cyber. Her recent book, 'The Cyber Effect' was selected by the Times as a 'book of the year' in the Thought category and was listed in the 2016 top twenty science books by Nature the International Journal of Science.

## **Gerald Bast, Rector of the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, Austria**



Dr. Gerald Bast is president of the University of Applied Arts Vienna since 2000. After his studies in law and economics he worked at the Federal Ministry of Higher Education and at Ludwig Boltzmann Research Society. As university president he initiated various new cross-disciplinary programs and the "Angewandte Innovation Lab", accentuating the intercommunication between art, science & technology, economics and politics. In these fields Gerald is also active as author and speaker at international conferences.

## **Síona Cahill, President of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI), Ireland**



Ms. Síona Cahill is the current President of USI, which represents over 374,000 third level students across Ireland. Síona is a graduate of a BCL Law and Sociology of Maynooth University, where she received the McKeivitt Memorial Prize for Sociology. She has served two terms as Maynooth University Students' Union Vice President for Welfare and Equality, as well as two terms as National Vice President for Equality and Citizenship before being elected to her current role. She sits on the boards of the Higher Education Authority and the Irish Family Planning Association and is regarded for her work on access to education, student accommodation and her LGBTI+ advocacy.

**Paul Doyle, Head of Professional Development Programmes in Computer Science, Technological University Dublin, Ireland**



Dr. Paul Doyle is the Head of Professional Development Programmes in Computer Science, Technological University Dublin (City Campus). He received his BSc and MSc in Computer Science in 1990 and 1992 respectively, at Dublin City University. He then spent 20 years in industry, managing server controller development teams for Sun Microsystems at Silicon Valley and Ireland, and as the Product and Quality Director for an IT Financial software company in Ireland. He returned to academia in 2008 where he completed his PhD in the area of distributed big data processing while working with HEANet to build and manage a shared Cloud Computing Infrastructure across the Higher Education sector. He is currently Principal Investigator for the European funded project on Quality Blended Learning, as well as leading online curriculum development in multiple Erasmus+ projects. He is also currently responsible for the development of flexible and blended learning IT courses in both South Korea and China.

**Tim Fowler, Chief Executive, Tertiary Education Commission, New Zealand**



Mr. Tim Fowler has been the Chief Executive of the Tertiary Education Commission in New Zealand since April 2013. He was previously Deputy Chief Executive, Quality Assurance at the New Zealand Qualifications Authority. Tim has held leadership positions in Australia and New Zealand in both the private and university sectors, after starting his career in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Tim has an Honours Degree from Victoria University of Wellington, a Masters from the East-West Center and the University of Hawaii, and executive education from INSEAD and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Brendan Guenther, Chief Academic Digital Officer, Michigan State University, United States**



Mr. Brendan Guenther is currently the Chief Academic Digital Officer for Michigan State University (MSU). In this role, Brendan provides leadership in the implementation and administration of MSU's digital innovation programs and enabling technologies, working in collaboration with the Associate Provost for Teaching, Learning and Technology and the Chief Information Officer.

After a career spent helping to implement academic technology, Brendan's focus is shifting. He will be developing university-wide policies and procedures that support inspired use of technology, a culture of innovation, institutional transformation, and measurable improvement. The CADO collaborates with academic departments and leads faculty to help the university become more digital, deliver innovative programs, improve immediacy of delivery, and advance personalization of the student experience.

Brendan has worked in higher education for 20 years, most recently serving as MSU Director of Academic Technology, and Director of IT Services Teaching & Learning. He received both of his degrees from MSU: a BA in Telecommunications, and an MA in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education, a program in which he continues his doctoral work.

### **Oisín Hassan, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Union of Students in Ireland (USI), Ireland**



Mr. Oisín Hassan is the Vice President for Academic Affairs with the Union of Students in Ireland (USI), a national organisation representing over 374,000 on both sides of the border. He is a graduate of Queen's University Belfast in Law with Politics and has begun an LLM in Law and Governance. He previously served as Vice President Equality and Diversity (2015/16) and Vice President Education (2016/17) in Queen's University Belfast Students' Union, before election to USI.

In his role he works on developing the student voice in quality enhancement, building capacity in Students' Union's on education policy, and embedding an ethos of students as partners across Ireland. He also works on International Affairs within USI, representing students at the European Students' Union.

Oisín sits on the Board of the Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and on the Board of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. He also works with various partners of USI, including Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI), the HEA, and Irish Study of Student Engagement (ISSE). He is Chairperson of the National Student Engagement Network set up under NStEP.

### **Gemma Irvine, Head of Policy and Strategic Planning, Higher Education Authority, Ireland**



Dr. Gemma Irvine is currently Head of Policy and Strategic Planning at the Higher Education Authority (HEA) in Ireland. In this role, she coordinates a national approach to the development and implementation of policy for higher education, with specific responsibility for the enhancement of teaching and learning, research, international education and equality, diversity and inclusion. Gemma is Chair of the Government's International Education Strategy Implementation Group for Priority 2: Internationally oriented, globally competitive institutions. She also Co-Chairs the National Forum for Open Research (NORF) and the National Advisory Forum for Doctoral Education in Ireland.

In 2012, Gemma coordinated the operational merger of the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) and the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET) into the Irish Research Council (IRC), becoming the Assistant Director of the IRC and the Irish National Delegate for SSH in H2020. She was responsible for coordinating the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLII) when she first moved into the HEA and was the Irish National Delegate for 'Research Infrastructures' in the FP7 EU Programme. Gemma completed her Masters and PhD in Neuroscience in New Zealand before coming to Ireland in 2004 to work as a Research Fellow in Trinity College Dublin, where she also completed a Business Administration Certificate (University of Manchester, Distance Learning) before joining the HEA in 2007.

**Mary Mitchell-O'Connor, Minister of State at the Department of Education with special responsibility for Higher Education, Ireland**



Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD is Minister of State at the Department of Education with special responsibility for Higher Education having been appointed on 14 June 2017. In 2018 she oversaw the passing into law of the Technological Universities Act, the subsequent establishment of 'Technological University Dublin' and launched a national Gender Equality Taskforce Action Plan. Minister Mitchell O'Connor previously served Minister of Business, Enterprise and Innovation from 6 May 2016, leading on the creation and maintenance of high quality and sustainable full employment across all regions of the country, seeing, for the first time in almost a decade, over 2 million people employed in Ireland. In 2011, former Taoiseach Enda Kenny appointed Minister Mitchell O'Connor as the Chairperson of the Internal Fine Gael Education Committee based on her successful career in education. She also wrote the first draft of the Fine Gael Education Manifesto 2016.

**Regina Murray, Senior Director, EMEA Higher Education Sector, Microsoft Ireland**



Ms. Regina Murray leads the Higher Education sector for Microsoft in Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) working with Ministries of Education, Education institutions, Educators and students on the transformative potential of technology for teaching and learning. Prior to this role, she led the Western Europe Education business with responsibility for field sales teams and engagement with education leaders and the European Union. From 2005 to 2008, Regina was the Public Sector Director for Microsoft Ireland covering both Government and Education.

Regina has led sales and marketing businesses with Microsoft for over 23 years both in Europe and the United States. During her 10 years in Silicon Valley she was responsible for Microsoft's Partner and Solution Sales divisions focused on large enterprise customers such as Bank of America, Chevron Texaco and Hewlett Packard. Regina spent two years leading Microsoft's Training and Certification business in the Pacific Northwest. Regina is a member of the Business Information Systems Advisory Board at University College Cork. She holds a BA degree in Economics from University College Cork.

**Orla Murphy, Head of Digital Arts and Humanities, University College Cork, Ireland**



Dr. Orla Murphy is Head of Digital Arts and Humanities at University College Cork. Named a Digital Champion at UCC in 2013, she subsequently was granted a national teaching expert award from the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. Recipient of an inaugural Fulbright TechImpact Scholarship 2015, she now chairs the E-Learning strategy subcommittee of the university's Academic Council. Dr Murphy is a board member of the Digital Repository of Ireland since 2017 and Irish national representative on the CoST EU Scientific Committee (Cooperation in Science and Technology). She is the National Coordinator of DARIAH Ireland a European Research Infrastructure Consortium that facilitates long-term access to, and use of, European Arts and Humanities digital research data and lead PI in the "Embedding Digital Literacies in Irish HEIs" project.

**Paul O'Toole, Chief Executive, Higher Education Authority, Ireland**

Mr. Paul O'Toole joined the Higher Education Authority as Chief Executive at the end of October 2018. He previously served as the Chief Executive Officer of SOLAS, the Further Education and Training Authority for Ireland and prior to this held the position of Director General, FÁS.

He served as the first Chief Executive of Tourism Ireland from July 2001. Prior to this he worked in Bord Fáilte from 1990 to 2001 in tourism development, marketing and corporate affairs. An Accountant by background, he holds a Master of Business Studies degree from the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business.

**Vivienne Patterson, Head of Skills, Engagement and Statistics, Higher Education Authority, Ireland**

Dr. Vivienne Patterson is Head of Skills, Engagement and Statistics at the Higher Education Authority. The section has responsibility for the management of the both the Springboard+ Programme, and the provision of national apprenticeships in higher education. Her role in the HEA involves active strategic engagement with agencies such as EI, IDA, IBEC and AmCham to strengthen the relationship between higher education promotion and future employment and innovation.

Vivienne played a key role in the development of the National Student Engagement Survey and the National Employers Survey and while leading the Statistics Section was responsible for several publications including "*What Do Graduates Do?*", "*Key Facts and Figures*", "*A Study of Non-Progression in Irish Higher Education*" and "*Higher Education System Performance: Institutional and Sectoral Profiles*". Before joining the HEA, Vivienne worked as a Senior Researcher in the Skills Initiative Unit and as an Education Consultant with the Skills and Labour Market Research Unit of SOLAS where she implemented the education arm of the National Skills Database.