

Round 48 - List of External Assessors

1. Niamh Farren

Niamh has over ten years' experience in the community media sector, ranging from volunteer programme production, to training and development, community outreach and management. She is a former member of the Board of Management of Dublin Community Television. In 2007, she completed a master's degree in Communications and Cultural Studies at Dublin City University, where her thesis proposed a framework for measuring quality in community radio. Niamh is Communications Officer with AONTAS, the National Adult Learning Organisation, a membership NGO which promotes lifelong learning.

2. Anna Lee

Anna Lee has considerable experience of the local/community development sector with a particular focus on the development of anti-poverty / social inclusion strategies. She was CEO of South Dublin County (formerly Tallaght / Dodder Valley) from 1991 until 2014. Anna has contributed to policy development at national, regional and county level. She chaired the Combat Poverty Agency from 1995 – 2001 and currently chairs ActionAid Ireland and the Tallaght based Village Counselling Service. She is a member of the Board of the Foundation for Investing in Communities, St Stephen's Green Trust and Focus Ireland.

3. Lawrie Hallett

Lawrie Hallett has a long-established background in professional broadcast radio production and presentation, creating both music and speech based programmes for local and international broadcasters. Trained as a radio journalist, he spent part of the 1980s working in Ireland and has since worked for both the UK's Community Media Association and Office of Communications, in various policy areas including community broadcasting and digital radio. Now a Senior Lecturer in Radio at the University of Bedfordshire, he teaches radio production and research broadcast radio policy issues. Based in Norwich, England, Lawrie is currently on the board of the local community based charity, Future Projects, which runs the city's community radio station, Future Radio.

4. Caroline Mitchell

Dr. Caroline Mitchell is an Assoc. Professor of Radio and Participation in the University of Sunderland. Her research and practice are centred on community media production and cultures of transnational community radio and women's/feminist radio. Dr. Mitchell was co-founder of Fem FM, the first women's radio station in the UK (1992) and she co-curated a digital archive of the station in 2014. She has published widely about women and radio, including the edited volume 'Women and Radio: Airing Differences', (Routledge, 2000). As PI for 'Transnational Radio Encounters', she researched ways that community stations use radio to connect transnationally with similar minority ethnic, social and cultural groups. This research group commissioned the online interactive platform radio.garden that has attracted millions of users since its launch in 2016. She co-ordinates ArtWorks-U, a support network for artists and creatives working in participatory settings which is part of the national Artworks Alliance group. She is also an executive producer for the weekly radio programme ArtyParti which won 2016 Community Media Association award for best arts radio programme.

5. Paul Sheehan

Paul has worked for 14 years in independent local radio in Ireland in a variety of capacities – as a broadcaster, journalist, producer, programme controller and CEO. Paul has worked for three years as a producer and programme editor in BBC radio in the UK.