



# International Women's Day 2016



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK  
OILScoil LUIMNIGH



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ICO Building, University of Limerick • Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016

## Embracing Gender Equality & Diversity Welcoming the Athena SWAN Charter for **ALL** in UL

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Speaker Biographies and Schedule of Events



## Alison Comyn Conference Chairperson

Alison Comyn is the anchor of 'Ireland Live news at 5.30' and co-anchor of 'Ireland Live news at 10' - the daily news & current affairs programmes on Ireland's newest channel UTV Ireland.

Since its launch in January 2015, the programmes have regularly attracted viewers in excess of 100,000 viewers, with a strong mix of national and international news, special reports, analysis and debate.

As part of the recent election coverage, she co-hosted a series of Leaders' interviews, grilling politicians on their policies ahead of their battle for Government.

Her programme 'Ireland Live news at 5.30' was recently nominated for an IFTA award for Best News Programme.

Alison has been a television presenter, journalist and broadcaster in the UK and Ireland for 20 years.

After many years with the BBC, Sky News and RTE, she also worked as a print journalist and columnist with the Drogheda Independent - a regional publication of Independent News and Media. As well as reporting on local political, crime and current affairs issues, her weekly column 'Comyn Sense' takes a personal, and often wry, look at Boyneside life through her eyes.

Alison graduated with ten distinctions in a Higher National Diploma in Broadcast Journalism in 1995, and within days had secured a reporting and news anchor position with Janet Street Porter's new television station in London LIVE TV.

Spotted by the editor of BBC NI news a year later, she was offered the role of breakfast news anchor in the busy Belfast newsroom, and soon began reporting on the main evening news programme Newsline, as well as presenting the evening news bulletins.

She has also been a reporter with Sky News Ireland, covering all aspects of live and packaged reporting.

She was also shortlisted for Regional Journalist of the Year at the NNI Awards.

While working as a news anchor with the BBC, Alison landed everyone's idea of a dream job, as she packed her suitcase and joined Jill Dando,

Carol Smiley, Craig Doyle and a host of other experienced journalists on the first BBC leisure show 'Holiday'.

Alison also appeared as the regular travel consultant on RTE afternoon show 'Four Live' with presenter Maura Derrane and was a rock and heavy metal radio presenter, radio newscaster with 4fm and BBC Radio Ulster as well as regularly contributing to Hotpress, Modern Mum, and Cars Buyers Guide magazines.



## Baz Ashmawy

TV and Radio Broadcaster

Our funny and sharp witted half Egyptian, half Irish presenter has been a truly exciting talent in TV and Radio for nearly ten years.

For one of his latest adventures Baz is joined by his 70+ year-old mammy, Nancy on a whirlwind journey around the world for 50 Ways To Kill Your Mammy on Sky 1. The International Emmy and IFTA Award winning series created by Baz, is co-produced for Sky by Brown Bread Films and Burning Bright Productions. Following the tremendous success of the series on Sky 1, the format has been sold to over 100 territories worldwide.

Also on Sky 1 Baz presented the popular international format, The Fanatics. The show celebrates the most passionate, utterly obsessed and fantastically devoted people who compete against each other to be crowned 'The Fanatic.'

Recently on RTÉ One, Baz presented The Lost Muslim, that followed his spiritual journey back to practising Islam. The two part documentary recently saw Baz delving back in to his heritage to educate both himself and his children, looking at how the culture and faith can co-exist with his own very Irish identity. He visited his beloved sister in Cairo who was at the heart of the Tahrir Square protests and is a devout Muslim.

Baz burst onto the scene presenting the wildly energetic and hugely successful hit comedy/travel series How Low Can You Go? on RTÉ Two which ran for five seasons. Following this, he then wrote and starred in the spin off series How Low Reality. From strength to strength Baz began his first solo project. The documentary led presenter began delving into the weird and the wonderful. From witches to biker gangs and from eccentrics to people who lived only on road kill with his

brilliant and insightful series Baz's Culture Clash on RTÉ Two. He very quickly cemented himself as a serious and charming presenter who could build rapport with just about anyone while having a lot of laughs along the way.

Travel has always played a prominent role in our "cheeky boy next door" presenter so it was no surprise he went on to become such a popular addition on RTÉ One's long running travel series No Frontiers.

Baz also presented the high rating live TV reality series Fáilte Towers which pulled in over one million viewers on RTÉ One for the first episode. He also appeared as a celebrity coach on the hit series Celebrity Baineisteoir, displaying a softer more serious side of his character people had seldom seen.

Barry McCall (photographer)



## Dr. Lisa O'Donoghue

Senior Research Fellow - Department of Design and Manufacturing Technology UL & Innovation Excellence Strategist Northern Co-Location Centre, Sweden

Dr. O'Donoghue is a Ph.D. Scientist who has received the Young Entrepreneur of Year Award (2010), Molex-Kriebel Award for Innovation in Global Business and Technology (2010) and the JCI Outstanding Young Person of the Year Award in Science and Technology in Ireland (June 2011). Dr. O'Donoghue holds a first class honours degree in Materials Science and Technology and a Metallurgy Doctorate in High Temperature Technology in Aero Gas Turbines Engine applications.

Dr. O'Donoghue has a varied background in leading industrial focused research in multidisciplinary fields such as metal recovery, automated recycling systems, abrasives technology, process optimisation of industrial electroplating systems, development of gas turbine coating systems, and development of a manufacturing process for shape memory alloys for biomedical stents.

Dr. O'Donoghue holds the post of Senior Research Fellow with the University of Limerick department of Design and Manufacturing Technology; Innovation Excellence Strategist with Northern Co-location Centre of the Raw Materials KIC headquarters in Lulea, Sweden and Coordinator of BRAVO an European Innovation Partnership on Bauxite Residue. She is also the

Founder and Director of Votechnik, an Award winning University spin out company focused on Automation of recycling processes. Dr O'Donoghue lectures materials scientists and industrial design engineers at the University of Limerick

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## Dr. Tomás Mac Conmara

*Oral historian*

Dr. Tomás Mac Conmara is an oral historian from Tuamgraney in East Clare. For almost fifteen years he has been documenting tradition and social memory associated with the revolutionary period and in 2015 was awarded a Doctorate at University of Limerick for his exploration of the social memory of the Irish War of Independence. His book 'The Time of the Tans', The Irish War of Independence, oral history, memory and tradition will be published in 2017. He currently works as Project Manager with the Cork Folklore Project and previously established the award winning Cuimhneamh an Chláir (Memories of Clare) oral heritage organization.

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## Professor Tiziana Margaria

*Chair of Software Engineering and Head of the Department at the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems and Principal Investigator of Lero, The Irish Software Research Centre - University of Limerick.*

In Lero, Tiziana heads the committee on International Relations Development and research projects on Scientific Workflow and model-driven HW/SW Cybersecurity.

She received a Laurea in Electrical Engineering and a PhD degree in Computer and Systems Engineering from the Politecnico di Torino, Italy.

She has broad experience in the use of formal methods for high assurance systems, in particular

concerning functional verification, reliability, and compliance of complex heterogeneous systems, through major industrial projects (where she won the European IT Award in 1996, and a start-up competition in 2001) and consulting, as well as through her activities as founder and CEO of start-up companies, holding 2 USPTO patents, one of which with NASA.

She is (co-) author of over 100 refereed papers in international journals and conferences (h-index 33, i-10 index 109, over 3900 citations), and she served on more than 100 Program Committees, over 20 times as chair. She is member of the ACM, IEEE, GI, FME, EAPLS, and EASST, and Fellow of SDPS, the Society for the Design and Process Science.

She is currently Vice-president of the European Association of Software Science and Technology (EASST), President of FMICS (the ERCIM Working Group on Formal Methods for Industrial Critical Systems).

In 2017 she will co-chair TACAS, the International Conference on Tools and Algorithms for the Construction and Analysis of Systems, that she co-founded 21 years ago, and SOFSEM 2017, that will take place for the first time in Western Europe, bringing it to Limerick.

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## Professor Tara Moore

*Director Biomedical Research Institute & Group Leader for Vision Science Research - School of Biomedical Science - University of Ulster*

Tara Moore is Director of the Biomedical Research Institute and is also Group Leader of Vision Science Research in the School of Biomedical Science at the University of Ulster. She is also an Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the Division of Molecular Medicine at the University of Dundee.

Tara graduated from Queen's University of Belfast in 1994 with a First Class Honors degree in Microbiology and in 1997 with a PhD in Immunology and Virology. She undertook a number of post-doctoral research fellowships within The Royal Group of Hospitals, Belfast; Mount Sinai Hospital, New York; and Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School, Boston. Upon returning to Northern Ireland in 2001, she took up a lectureship in Immunology with the University of Ulster in Coleraine.

Tara was awarded a Distinguished Teaching Fellowship from Ulster University and the Higher Education Academy (HEA) UK National Teaching Fellowship and Rising Star award. She also received Ulster's Distinguished Research Fellowship. She is Winner of the 2014 WISE (Women into Science & Engineering) Hero Award for her role in STEM subject teaching and research and won the Women in Business Northern Ireland Award for Advancing Diversity in the Workplace.

She plays a leading role in advancing the Athena SWAN charter at Ulster, as an Athena SWAN Champion for the School of Biomedical Sciences and along with colleagues developed FAME, a female mentoring scheme within Ulster University, member of the 30 percent club Women in Media group, a mentor for the New York Academy of Sciences 1000girls1000futures initiative and a female role model for the 2015 WISE campaign.

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## Margot Slattery

*Country president, Sodexo Ireland*

Margot Slattery is country president of Sodexo Ireland, part of the global Sodexo Group, the world's largest multi-services company. In Ireland, Sodexo employs 2,000 people delivering services that improve the quality of life to clients and their staff at 200 site locations.

Margot is on Sodexo's global LGBT network leadership team. The company is a founding partner and signatory of Ireland's first Diversity Charter and a finalist in the Best Employer category at the 2014 and 2015 GALA Awards, Ireland's LGBT Awards.

Margot was named Senior Leader of the Year at the Inaugural Workplace Equality Index Awards in Dublin in 2015. She appears in the 2015 and 2016 Out at Work/Telegraph list of Top 50 LGBT Executives and the 2015 Financial Times' list of Top 100 Outstanding LGBT Business Leaders.

Outside Sodexo, Margot sits on the Board of GLEN (the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network) in Ireland.

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# SCHEDULE

IWDC TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016

TIME	SPEAKERS
09h00 – 09h15	Welcome <b>Alison Comyn – Conference Chair</b>
09h15 – 09h20	Formal Opening of Conference <b>Professor Paul McCutcheon</b> <i>Vice President Academic &amp; Registrar</i>
09h20 – 09h40	<b>Margot Slattery</b> <i>Country President, Sodexo Ireland</i>  Unconscious to Conscious Leadership – The Learning Cycle
09h40 – 09h50	Welcoming Athena SWAN for all in UL <b>Marie Connolly</b> <i>HR Manager, Organisation Change – Athena SWAN Co-ordinator</i>
09h50 – 11h00	STEMM Role Models <b>Professor Tara Moore</b> 'To reach any summit requires vision' <b>Professor Tiziana Margaria</b> 'Of Bits and Bytes' <b>Dr. Lisa O'Donoghue</b> 'Materials world - my journey from lab to market'.  Panel Discussion - Q&A
11h00 – 11h30	Tea/Coffee
11h30 - 12h15	<b>Baz Ashmawy</b> 'Don't Judge a Girl by her Cover'
12h15 - 12h45	<b>Dr. Tomás Mac Conmara</b> 'Women of the Easter Rising and its aftermath - Revolution and Memory'
12h30 – 12h45	Questions & Answers
12h45 – 12h55	Conference Close
13h00 – 14h00	Lunch Millstream Common Room



**Charter for women in science**  
Recognising commitment to advancing  
women's careers in STEMM academia