



# 'IF IT BLEEDS, IT LEADS?: THE MEDIA REPORTING OF CRIME IN IRELAND'



Date: Tuesday, March 13th, 6-7.30pm.

Room 3067/8,

Dublin Institute of Technology, Aungier Street, Dublin 2.

This seminar, part of DIT's Socio-Legal Speaker Series will examine the nature of crime reporting in Ireland, exploring issues of responsible journalism and the media's effect on crime policy.



## Speakers:

### **Dearbhail McDonald, Legal Editor, Irish Independent**

As one of Ireland's most popular current affairs commentators, Dearbhail McDonald leads a unique charge against social injustice as Legal Editor of the Irish Independent, Ireland's largest daily newspaper. As well as covering breaking and emerging news stories, she is an investigative news journalist who provides original analysis on key legal and social policy developments.

Dearbhail is the author of a bestselling book, "Bust: How the Courts Have Exposed the Rotten Heart of the Irish Economy" (Penguin, 2010) on the recent economic crisis and appears frequently on national and international television and radio programmes including RTÉ and the BBC. She is also a violinist and founding member of the Serafina String Quartet and plays with the Dublin Symphony Orchestra.

Dearbhail is active with peace building charity Co-Operation Ireland and Fighting Words, an organisation dedicated to helping children of all ages develop their writing and storytelling skills.

She has recently been appointed as Ireland's nominee for the 2012 Eisenhower Fellowships. During her fellowship, Dearbhail plans to delve into the future of media and investigative journalism in a digital age.

### **Lynsey Black, Lecturer, Dublin Institute of Technology**

Lynsey lectures in Criminology at Dublin Institute of Technology. She is also a PhD student at Trinity College Dublin where she is studying the representation of women who were condemned to death in Ireland in the nineteenth- and twentieth-centuries, using contemporary newspaper reporting and official government documentation to piece together depictions of the women's lives and public reactions to their crimes. Her previous research includes a study of the representation of offending women in four Irish newspapers in 2008.

Lynsey studied law at Trinity College and criminology at Dublin Institute of Technology before going on to intern and work with the Irish Penal Reform Trust. She is a member of the Irish criminology group 'The Differential Association' and has spoken at various national and international conferences on her research and the subject of the media and crime generally.

Chaired by Liam Herrick, Executive Director of the Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT).

Liam has been Executive Director of IPRT since November 2007. Before that he was the first Senior Legislation and Policy Review Officer with the Irish Human Rights Commission, a position he held for four years. He has a broad range of experience in the NGO and State sector, having worked with the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Law Reform Commission. Liam was a Board member of the Children's Rights Alliance until 2011. For more on the work of IPRT, see [www.iprt.ie](http://www.iprt.ie).

