

Report from Athlone (Ireland) Meeting

The First training meeting of Grundtvig Project 'Hidden History - Memories under Construction' was in Athlone on 14th and 15th of May 2014, attended by 40 participants.

Athlone Community Radio organised very successful live broadcast from the training, engaging all participants and involving them with local listeners who were introduced to project's radio stations and their historical themes that would be covered in Grundtvig project.

This was the schedule of the training:

Provisional Timetable & Schedule

Athlone

Trainer: Tom Clonan

Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th May 2014

Wednesday 14th May

0930 – Opening Remarks – Overview and Introductions

1030 – Exercise One

Sources – The full range of primary and secondary sources – An exploration

Coding and Decoding – Exploring meanings and ideology in visual and audio texts

The a/m will involve an introduction to an exhaustive list of legitimate official and unofficial sources for radio researchers. Some of the sources are orthodox, some unorthodox and thought provoking.

For Coding and Decoding, we will look at some advertisements and a Sky News Broadcast. Q and A discussion of same.

1200 – 1230 – Discussion and Feedback

1230 – 1400 – Lunch

1400 – 1500 – Exercise Two

Case Study - Story of Lieutenant Joe Clonan, Australian Imperial Force, Killed in Action, Ypres, France, November 1917. This consists of an archival search – online and in print – mixture of sad and funny and surprising.

Then there is a radio broadcast based on the story a/m.

1500 – 1530 – Coffee

1530 – 1630 – Exercise Three

Case Study – Operation Grapes of Wrath, Lebanon, April 1996. Channel Four News Bulletin,
Followed by ‘Blood Sweat and Tears’ – Radio, ‘Book on 1’ RTE Radio 1 from May 2014

NB (From 5-7 pm is Athlone Community Radio live broadcast of the programme EUor Community Radio, one representative from each station will be interviewed for 7-8 minutes and we will make running order to suit you when you come over, so it’s only 15 minutes of your time)

Dinner (2 courses) for all, at 8 o’clock (it’s part of your hotel deal)

Thursday 15th May

1000 – 11.30 Exercise Four

Case Study 2 If Lynch Had Invaded

Play documentary and discuss interweaving of sources, official and unofficial, archive and anecdotal and use of counterfactual history and re-construction.

11.30 – 1230 Discussion and Feedback

1230 – 1400 – Lunch

1400 – 1500 Exercise Five

Play documentary and follow with 30 minutes Q and A and discussion and feedback

1500 – 1530 – Coffee

1530 – 1630 – Exercise Six

Whistleblowers Radio Documentary – Contested Knowledge/History and Discussion and Feedback.

Trainer CV:

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: Dr. Tom Clonan

Address: Cemaes, 4, Trimleston Avenue, Booterstown, Co. Dublin

Email: tclonan@irishtimes.com

Phone No: Mobile: +353 87 9673724 **Date of Birth:** 26th August 1966

Educational PhD, Dublin City University, 2000

Qualifications: MA in Communications, Dublin City University, 1995

 Diploma in Military Studies, Military College, 1991

 Bachelor in Education, Trinity College, Dublin, 1989

Educational Record

PhD Dublin City University, 1996-2000

I completed a PhD in DCU as a part-time student during this period and graduated in November 2000. The PhD, titled 'The Status and Roles Assigned Female Members of The Defence Forces' revealed the widespread bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, sexual assault and rape of female soldiers within the Irish military. The Doctoral Study prompted an independent Irish Government enquiry into the Irish military in 2002 entitled 'The Study Review Group'. The Study Review Group reported in 2003 and fully vindicated my research findings. The Review Group implemented many of my recommendations and the Irish Defence Forces are now recognised as international leaders in terms of equality and dignity in the military workplace.

Arising from this doctoral research and arising from the positive outcomes for thousands of employees within the defence sector, I am regarded as one of Ireland's pre-eminent whistleblowers. In 2007, RTE radio broadcast a documentary based on my experiences as a whistleblower. Transparency International Ireland have also used my experience of whistleblower reprisal as a cornerstone of their campaign, 'Alternatives to Silence' launched in 2010. To this end, I am uniquely qualified to teach the manner in which Community Radio might be empowered and equipped to effectively tell hidden histories and untold stories in historical or contemporary society.

Postgraduate Level:

Dublin City University, 1993-1995.

I completed an MA in Communications in D.C.U. in 1995 and graduated with a 2.1. This MA programme combined a syllabus of media studies, mass communication theory and cultural theory. I undertook modules on Community Radio and non-traditional, non-mainstream media discourses.

Undergraduate Level:

Trinity College Dublin - 1984-1989

I graduated from Trinity College, Dublin with a Bachelor in Education (2.1 Honours) awarded by Trinity College, Dublin.

Personal Profile: Key Skills – Core Competencies

Communications, Marketing, Engagement, Crisis Management

- As an academic and journalist, I have created a strong brand and identity at home and abroad as an expert in security, defence and emergency response issues – a skill set that is essential at this point in Community Radio development
- I have extensive media and PR experience as a journalist and have provided master classes in media relations to the Public Relations Institute of Ireland
- I am a full member of the NUJ – Dublin Freelance Branch and Irish Times Chapel
- I am a member of the EU Association of European Journalists (AEJ)
- I am a member and alumnus of the EU European Journalism Centre (EJC), Brussels
- I have been Irish Times Security Analyst for over a decade and have developed extensive contacts within the Irish and international media – a network which would be invaluable to facilitating the development of Community Radio
- As Irish Times Security Analyst and as a broadcaster I have developed strong links with successive Irish government ministers and departments including Education, Defence, Justice, Foreign Affairs and Department of An Taoiseach
- As Irish Times Security Analyst I have forged strong links and contacts within the diplomatic community – including the US, British, Russian, Palestinian and Israeli Embassies along with the Embassies of India and Pakistan
- As Irish Times Security Analyst I have forged very strong links with the US State Department and am an Alumnus of several US State Department cultural and educational exchanges
- As a UN peacekeeper and election monitor with experience in the Middle East and former Yugoslavia (1996 – 2000) I have interacted with disparate stakeholder groups ranging from the UN to Hizbullah to the Red Cross to NATO the OSCE and the War Crimes Tribunal for former Yugoslavia – often in fast moving, volatile and highly pressurised environments
- As an academic, journalist and army officer I have extensive experience of working to deadline within complex legal and regulatory environments – delivering timely and successful outcomes as part of the multidisciplinary team.
- As a lecturer and journalist in practice within DIT School of Media, I am widely published and have presented peer reviewed academic papers within Ireland, the EU

and the United States – I am a committee member of the UK and Ireland Association of Journalism Educators (AJE)

Strategic Development

- Key contribution in DIT School of Media to development of new courses, curricula and syllabi
- Key contribution to delivery of integrated modules in research methodology across DIT Schools within College of Arts and Tourism
- Member of the Senior Leadership Team during Defence Forces transformation from UN peacekeeping operations to peace enforcement operations with NATO and EU Rapid Reaction Forces 1998 – 2000
- As Defence Forces Press Officer reporting directly to the Chief of Staff - formulated strategic communications plan for transformation of status and role of Defence Forces
- Successfully communicated key change initiatives within Defence Forces to all internal and external stakeholders, nationally and internationally 1998 - 2000

Academic

- Active research and publication profile as DIT academic
- Active participant as senior staff lecturer in all of DIT School of Media School Reviews and quintennial review processes
- Actively combining research, professional practice/performance and best practice to ensure quality in DIT teaching and research
- Special interest within DIT in developing revised curricula and syllabi for postgraduate research methodology in applied disciplines – particularly suited to active research collaborations with industry
- Ground-breaking doctoral research – equality and communications audit of Irish Defence Forces - transforming the equality culture of the Defence Forces with identifiable and measurable benefits for over 20,000 full time and part time soldiers, sailors and aircrew
- Committee member of UK and Ireland Association of Journalism Educators (AJE)
- Fellow of US based Inter University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society
- Alumnus of US State Department NATO and EU Defence briefing programmes

Human Resources Development

- PhD specialised in workplace equality and dignity at work policies - 2000
- Doctoral Research identified several HR issues within the Defence Forces and transformed equality environment of the Irish military – 2000 to date
- Doctoral research formulated equality mission statement, equality policies and health and safety policies around bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and dignity in the workplace
- From 1996 – 2000, reported directly to the Senior Leadership Team within the Defence Forces on best practice for all recruitment and promotion competitions within the organisation
- From 1996 – 2000 reported directly to the Senior Leadership Team within the Defence Forces on identifying objective criteria for promotion within the organisation's Integrated Personnel Management System (IPMS)
- From 1996 – 2000 reported directly to the Senior Leadership Team within the Defence Forces on developing the organisation's PMDS and mentoring system

All of these core skills and competencies make me the ideal candidate to facilitate and teach the reflective, technical, networking and engagement skills necessary for Community Radio

Employment Record

Current Position: Lecturer, School of Media, Dublin Institute of Technology

(2002 to date)

As an academic within DIT I have an active research and publication profile. I lecture on a range of postgraduate programmes within the School of Media including the MA in Journalism, the MA in International Journalism, the MA in Applied Media Studies, the MA in Public Affairs and Political Communication and the MA in Public Relations. I specialise in communication theory and the political economy of communication. I have a special interest in research methodology and am the research coordinator for both the MA in Public Affairs and Political Communication and the MA in Public Relations. I have successfully managed the research profile of the MA in Public Affairs and Political Communications within the sensitive environment of Leinster House since its initial cycle in 2007. From 2012, DIT students will have direct and privileged access to both Seanad and Dail as postgraduate researchers. I have published several articles and conference papers on non traditional research profiles and insider research. I am currently supervising two research students to PhD level.

I am the FETAC appointed External Examiner for Independent College, (Independent News and Media) on their BA and MA courses in Journalism. I am a Committee member of the UK and Ireland Association of Journalism Education. I am a fellow of the US based Inter University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society.

Research Funding

In 2002, I successfully competed for resources from the HEA PRTL I Fund for the funding of a 2 year postgraduate research programme – leading to an MA – based on an audit of the Irish print media’s coverage of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. In 2003, I successfully competed for funding from OECD/DIT Faculty of Applied Arts Research-Scholarship Development Fund for an audit of the sources used by Irish crime and security correspondents under the OECD Research Theme – Media and Civil Society. I also applied for and received funding for an OECD Media and Civil Society Research Themed study on journalism practice and professional routines in time of war, from the OECD/DIT Faculty of Applied Arts Research-Scholarship Development Fund in 2007.

Irish Times Security Analyst, Irish Times, Dublin

(2001 to date)

For over a decade - since the 911 attacks in New York - I have provided defence and security analysis for the Irish Times newspaper as Irish Times Security Analyst. In this capacity, I have provided hundreds of in-depth feature and opinion/analysis pieces for the Irish Times on the military, civil and political implications of the global war on terror. I also provide expert

opinion and analysis on international terrorism, intelligence networks and the emergency response capability of state and non-state actors.

In my capacity as a print journalist I have provided in depth analysis on a wide spectrum of defence related issues in a time sensitive environment, to deadline and often in relation to fast-moving international events. In this regard, the tactical, strategic and political analysis I have provided has been translated into several languages and is reproduced, quoted and cited widely across both traditional and digital media in the United States, the EU, Russia and Asia.

In my capacity as a freelance radio and television journalist, I have provided expert analysis on defence and security related issues to the national broadcaster RTE radio and television along with commercial broadcasters such as TV3, Newstalk and Today FM within Ireland. I am also a regular expert contributor on BBC radio and television, Sky News and on a number of US and Australian networks.

I have also participated as an expert contributor and presenter in a number of documentaries in recent years. The most recent include 'What If Jack Lynch Had Invaded Northern Ireland?' (Doubleband Productions, Belfast, Northern Ireland) broadcast by RTE in 2009 and 'Behind Bars', (Sideline Productions, Dublin) broadcast by TV3 in 2011. I am currently presenting a weekly newspaper review on 'The Daily Show', (Greeninc Productions, Belfast, Northern Ireland) broadcast by RTE for the Autumn 2011 and Spring 2012 schedule.

Previous Employment:

Nov 2000 – June 2002: Assistant Lecturer, IT-Tallaght

On the 06th of November 2000, I was appointed as Assistant Lecturer in Communications in the Institute of Technology in Tallaght. I lectured in Communications Theory, (Political Economy, Language and Discourse, Mass Communications Theory) to Certificate, Diploma and Degree Audio Visual Students. I also lectured in these subjects on the Masters Degree in Multimedia offered in IT Tallaght.

Previous Employment: Nov 1989 – Dec 2000: Army Officer, Irish Defence Forces

Nov 1998 - Nov 2000 Press Officer, Defence Forces Headquarters:

In 1998, I was appointed to the position of press officer at Defence Forces Headquarters, Parkgate Street, Dublin. This involved reporting directly to the Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces and the Minister for Defence and formulating communications strategy and tactics for the Senior Leadership Team of the Defence Forces. As an accredited spokesperson for the Defence Forces, with troops in 17 different countries worldwide engaged in peacekeeping and peace enforcement missions, I managed the organisation's relationship with the local, national and international print and electronic media on a daily basis. I was also responsible for managing internal communications within the organisation for the Senior Management Team.

In a joint initiative with the United Nations Training School, Ireland, I also briefed foreign correspondents and freelance journalists on the health and safety issues of reporting from hostile environments overseas. I also lectured on these issues to the Postgraduate Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance offered by the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin in 1999-2000.

The period of my tenure as Defence Forces Press Officer was a pivotal one for the Defence Forces in terms of its mission, status and role within Ireland and the European Union. In the period 1999-2000, the organisation downsized from a 4 Brigade to a 3 Brigade structure. This required a reduction in personnel from 13,000 aircrew, sailors and soldiers to 10,000. Alongside this reduction in numbers there was an accompanying paradigm shift in the Defence Forces core strategic and tactical doctrine. During this period, the Defence Forces moved from being a peacekeeping force answering only to the UN to an army fully engaged in the full spectrum of peace-enforcement and combat roles answering to the UN, NATO and the newly emerging EU Rapid Reaction Force. My role within the Senior Management Team at that time was to communicate these changes to both external and internal audiences and stakeholders. My role and experience in this regard is directly analogous to and applicable to the role of Director of Communications and Marketing at TCD.

Overseas Experience

1995-1996; United Nations (Middle East) and OSCE (Europe):

In October 1996 I was posted to the Battalion Mobile Reserve of the 78th Battalion in Al Yatun in South Lebanon. During my tour with UNIFIL I commanded troops both adjacent to and within the Israeli self-declared security zone. This tour of duty coincided with the Israeli offensive in the region, Operation "Grapes of Wrath" which culminated in the massacre of refugees at Qana in April of 1996. During this

Operation, as a military officer, I was involved in a number of armed confrontations with Israeli-backed and Hezbollah/Amal elements. I also oversaw extensive humanitarian and evacuation work.

In September 1996, I travelled to the Serb-held area of Bosnia Herzegovina in former Yugoslavia. I was involved in co-ordinating election activities under the terms of the Dayton Accord. Whilst there I worked for the OSCE and liaised with SFOR, the Red Cross and elements of the War Crimes Tribunal for former Yugoslavia.

Additional Military Duties: 1992 – 1998

In addition to those military duties outlined above I lectured in the Military College, Defence Forces Training Centre, Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare, on Communications and Military Culture, Organisational Communications, and Media Relations. I also lectured on Communications and Media Relations on the international courses run by the United Nations Training School, (Ireland).

From 1996 onwards, I also conducted Communications and Media training in the Defence Forces Audio-Visual School for Senior Officers attending the Command and Staff School in the Military College. I provided Communications and Media training for all military personnel travelling overseas and for personnel in appointments where critical communications/management skills and interface with the media were required.

Interview Boards and Staff Selection:

From 1996 – 2000, I reported directly to the Senior Leadership Team within the Defence Forces on best practice for all recruitment and promotion competitions within the organisation. I briefed all interview boards within the Defence Forces on best practice in relation to staff assessment, selection and development. From 1996 – 2000, I reported directly to the Senior Leadership Team within the Defence Forces on identifying objective criteria for promotion within the organisation's Integrated Personnel Management System (IPMS). From 1996 – 2000, I reported directly to the Senior Leadership Team within the Defence Forces on developing the organisation's PMDS and mentoring system.

Teaching Experience

1987-1989; Primary School Teacher:

On graduation from TCD, I worked as a primary school teacher in Scoil Mhuire NS, Woodview Heights, Lucan, Co. Dublin. The school was co-educational and during this period I taught the second, third and fourth-class curricula.

At this time I underwent the probationary year of teaching as evaluated by the Primary School's inspectorate and obtained the Diploma awarded in this regard by the Department of Education.

Publications and Papers

Publications

Clonan, T., (1998): *A History of The Irish Artillery Corps*, Dublin, Defence Forces Printing Press.

Clonan, T., (2000): *Sisters in Arms – The Status and Roles Assigned Female Personnel in the Irish Defence Forces*; DCU: Doctoral Thesis.

Clonan, T., (2004) ‘The Reflective Practitioner: Critical Theory and the Professionalisation of PR’, *The Public Relations Institute of Ireland (PRII) Online Journal*, (1), 1-12.

Clonan, T., (2004) ‘Kosovo: A Disturbing Case Study of Trafficking’, *Amnesty Ireland, Dublin: Amnesty International*, Issue 124: 6-8.

Clonan, T., (2007) “Welcome To Shannon – All Weapons Must Remain On Board The Aircraft”, in Murtagh, P., (Ed): *The Irish Times Book of The Year 2007*, Dublin: Gill and McMillan pp55-60.

Clonan, T., (2007): ‘Censorship and Secrecy: the Political Economy of Communication and the Military’, *Irish Communications Review*, Volume 10, 50-56.

Clonan, T., (2007), Chapter 8.1 ‘Civil Control of The Military and The Police in Ireland: The Armed Forces’, 81-6, TASC Audit Ireland, 2007: *Power to the People? Assessing Democracy in Ireland*, TASC, Dublin.

Clonan, T., 2009, ‘All Changed, Changed Utterly – The Irish Defence Forces Culture of Change Management’, *Signal*, Volume 7, Issue 2, 41-4.

Clonan, T., (2009): ‘War Crimes in Israel and Palestine’, *Amnesty International*, Amnesty International: Dublin, 4-5.

Clonan, T., (2011): ‘Gender Streaming in the Irish Defence Forces’, in Mulreany, M., & O’Brien, D., *Lord of the Files: Working for the Government, An Anthology*, Dublin: Institute of Public Administration, pp 420-1.

Peer Reviewed Conference Papers

Clonan, T., (1999): 1999, ‘The Learning Environment of the Irish Defence Forces’, *DCU Learning Festival*, Dublin City University, Dublin.

Clonan, T., (1999):, ‘Women in Combat and Military Culture in Transition’, *Taboo and Cultures in Transition Conference* DCU, School of Applied Languages and Intercultural studies, (SALIS), Dublin City University, Dublin.

Clonan, T., (2000): 'Women, Combat and Cultural Trauma', *Conference on Cultural Trauma*, DCU, School of Applied Languages and Intercultural studies, Dublin City University, Dublin.

Clonan, T., (2000): 'Sisters in Arms - Women, Combat and the use of force', *5th Interdisciplinary and International Symposium on Gender Research*, Kiel University, Germany.

Clonan, T., (2001): 'Irish Women's Participation in the Liberation of the Irish State', *European Federation of Associations and Centres for Irish Studies, (EFACIS), Third Conference*, University of Aarhus, Denmark.

Clonan, T., (2003): 'The impact of the Official Secrets Act on Communication Researchers', *'Communication in Borderlands' International Communications Association, 53rd Annual Conference*, San Diego, California, USA.

Clonan, T., (2003): 'The Dilemmas of Reporting War', *Bournemouth Media School Conference 'Current Affairs – An Endangered Species'*, Bournemouth University, Bournemouth, England.

Clonan, T., (2003): 'The Political Economy of War Reporting', *Fifth Annual Conference, Media, Communications and Cultural Studies Association, (MeCCSA)*, University of Sussex, England.

Clonan, T., (2004): 'The Public Sphere (Systems and Environment): Government Manipulation of Media Relations', *Annual Conference of European Public Relations Education and Research Association, (EUPRERA) and the German PR Institute (DGKuP)*: University of Leipzig, Germany.

Clonan, T., (2005): 'State Control of Information in Time of Conflict' *Unesco, Sofia University 8th International Conference on Public Communication, Democracy and the Public Sphere*, University of Sophia, Sophia, Bulgaria.

Clonan, T., (2007): 'Media Representation of Urban Terrorism', *UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies, Terrorism, the City and the State Conference, Media and Urban Terrorism*, University College, Dublin, Ireland.

Clonan, T., (2008): 'Truth and War Reporting: Journalism in Hostile Environments', *Interdisciplinary Conference, Probing the Boundaries – At the Interface*, Budapest, Hungary.

Clonan, T., (2009), 'Conducting Feminist Research in Sensitive Research Settings – Implications for Research Subjects and Researchers', *International Conference on Feminist Research Methods*, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden.

Clonan, T., (2009) 'Gaza and the Israeli Palestinian Conflict 2009 – The News Gathering Process and Agenda Setting', *International Conference on Conflict, Terrorism and Society*, Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Turkey.

Clonan, T., (2010), 'Researcher as Whistleblower: The Ethical Challenges Posed by Sensitive Research', *Interdisciplinary Conference, Ethics and the Academy*, Salzburg, Austria, March 2010.

Clonan, T., (2010), 'Blowing the Whistle on Bullying in the Workplace – The Aftermath of Insider Research', *The 7th International Conference on Workplace Bullying and Harassment*, University of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Wales, June 2010.

Clonan, T., (2010), 'Government Spin in Ireland – The Impact of Communications Gatekeepers on Journalism as Public Service', *The British and Irish Association of Journalism Education (AJE), Annual Conference*, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland, September 2010.

Clonan, T., (2010), 'Official Sources and News Narratives Around Conflict and Terrorism', *Political Studies Association of Ireland, Annual Conference*, Dublin Institute of Technology, Dublin, October 2010.

Clonan, T., (2011), 'Libya's No Fly Zone – War Reporting and News Values', *International Journal of Arts and Sciences, Annual General Conference*, Gottenheim, Germany, April 2011.

Clonan, T., 2011, 'Blessed Art Thou Amongst Women – Unanticipated Consequences for Male Feminist Researchers', *1st Global Conference on Femininity and Masculinity*, Warsaw, Poland, May 2011.

Clonan, T., 2011, 'Communicating War and Conflict – Perspectives and Voices on Massacre at Qana, Lebanon, April 1996', *Interdisciplinary Conference on Communications and Conflict*, Prague, Czech Republic, November 2011.

Clonan, T., 2012, 'The Status and Role Reversal of Women in the Irish War of Independence and Civil War', *2nd Global Conference on Femininity and Masculinity*, Prague, Czech Republic, May 2012.

Invited Papers – Public Speeches/Debates/Interviews

Institute of Technology, Sligo, Ireland, 2001, ‘Science Week’, ‘Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare – The Terrorist Threat’, Dr. Tom Clonan, 15th November 2001.

Boston Globe, Cooperation Ireland 2002, Linen Hall Library Lecture, Belfast, ‘Journalism and International Terrorism’, Dr. Tom Clonan, 18th November 2002.

College Historical Society, Trinity College Dublin, January 2003, ‘That Britain and the United States Will Invade Iraq’, Dr. Tom Clonan, School of Media, DIT Vs George Galloway, M.P.

Presentation to US Ambassador to Ireland, Mr. James Kenny and Senator Newt Gingrich ‘Security Threats Posed by Terrorism and Asymmetrical Warfare’ at US Ambassador’s Residence, Phoenix Park, 2003.

Young European Parliamentary Platform, (YEPP), EU Parliament, Dublin 2004, EU Parliament Offices, Dublin, ‘Europe and the United States : Challenging Military Hegemony’, Dr. Tom Clonan, 16th January 2004.

University Philosophical Society, Trinity College Dublin, May 2004, ‘The British Army in Iraq’, Dr. Tom Clonan, DIT, Vs Colonel Tim Collins, Royal Irish Regiment.

Rathmines Town Festival, 25th March 2006, ‘America Abroad, Democracy or Destruction’, Dr. Tom Clonan, DIT.

Lisbon Treaty Debate – Dublin North West Constituency – 30 April 2008 – Military Implications of Lisbon Treaty

Lisbon Treaty Public Debate – Worker’s Party Wynnes Hotel, 05 June 2008, Dr. Tom Clonan and Ruairi Quinn T.D., Vs Joe Higgins MEP and Richard Boyd Barrett, People Before Profit.

University Philosophical Society, Trinity College Dublin, November 2008, Conducted Public Interview with US Assistant Secretary of State, Ambassador John Negroponte, ‘Eight Years of US Foreign Policy under President George W Bush – A Retrospective and Discussion of the Foreign Policy Challenges Confronting President Barak Obama’.

Transparency International: An Alternative To Silence – Whistleblowers Speak Out; Dr. Tom Clonan (Whistleblower on Sexual Abuse in the Irish Defence Forces) Eugene Mc Erlean (Whistleblower on Financial Irregularities in AIB) – Public Speech and Demonstration organized by Transparency International – Buswells Hotel and Dail Eireann – 09 January 2010.

Liberal Society – Public Debate on Future of Irish Parliamentary Democracy. Ruairi Quinn T.D., Michael Mc Dowell SC., Dick Roche T.D., Enda Kenny T.D., Chairperson Dr. Tom Clonan, June 2010.

Extra Curricular Interests

I am an Alumnus of several US State Department educational and cultural exchange program. The latest of these was as a participant in the program 'Alternatives To Political Violence' which took place in Dublin, Belfast, Boston and Montgomery, Alabama in February and March 2012

I am a member of the EU Security Network – SERENITY. This is an EU wide organization which is involved in mapping the European security landscape, evolving cyber security strategies and assessing future threats to European security.

As a former winner of the Irish Times Debating Competition (1990) I retain an interest in public debates and am a regular chair of debates at Trinity College, Dublin

I have been involved in the Central Remedial Clinic (CRC) Santa Bear Appeal since 2003 as a fundraiser. I am a member of the Irish Wheelchair Association 'Clontarf Swifts' Wheelchair Sports Club where I assist in the running of weekly wheelchair sports activities

I am a member of the Irish Carers Association

Referees

Dr. Brian O'Neill,

Head of School of Media and Senior Research Fellow IRCHSS,

Dublin Institute of Technology, Aungier Street,

Dublin 2. (086) 8030050

Mr. Peter Murtagh,

Foreign and Managing Editor,

The Irish Times,

10-16 D'Olier Street,

Dublin 2. (087) 2531198

