



DROMOLAND

2012



Third Annual Tourism Policy Workshop

2nd to 4th November 2012

Speaker Profiles



Jim Deegan is an economist and Head of the Economics Department and Professor of Tourism Policy at the Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick. Jim is also Director of the National Centre for Tourism Policy Studies which is Ireland's leading research centre in all facets of tourism policy. Over the last 20 years he has contributed research papers on many facets of Irish tourism policy and has undertaken research reports for many national and international agencies. Jim is a member of the editorial board of Tourism Economics and regularly acts as an academic referee for the major journals in tourism. He is the organiser of the workshop.



Aidan Pender is Director of Strategic Development at Fáilte Ireland (The National Tourism Development Authority). In this role, he works with teams of colleagues in four distinct areas – Destination Development, Product Investment & Development, Research & Policy, and Standards, Food, & Tourism Education. As a part of this portfolio, Aidan also works with a range of stakeholders in the support and development of Ireland's key heritage and culture assets. Before joining Fáilte Ireland in December 2003, Aidan worked for twenty years as a management consultant with PA Consulting Group (London), Management Centre Europe (Brussels) and the Institute of Public Administration (Dublin). He is a graduate of UCD and holds Bachelor of Arts, Master of Public Administration, and Master of Economic Science degrees.



Alan Ahearne is an economics lecturer at NUI Galway. Alan is also a Member of the Commission (Board) of the Central Bank of Ireland and is a research fellow at Bruegel, the influential Brussels based economics think tank. He served as Special Adviser to the former Minister for Finance Brian Lenihan from March 2009 until March 2011. Previously, he worked as a Senior Economist at the Federal Reserve Board. Alan holds a Ph.D. in economics from Carnegie Mellon University, a postgraduate degree in economics from University College Dublin and an undergraduate business degree from the University of Limerick.



Aisling Reynolds-Feighan is Associate Professor of Transport Economics in the School of Economics at University College Dublin, and Adjunct Professor at the Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick. She holds BA and MA degrees in Economics from UCD. Prior to joining the School of Economics at UCD, she attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, graduating with a Ph.D. degree in 1989. Her main research interests are in air and road transport economics and logistics. Aisling has published widely on comparative US, European and Asian air transportation systems, networks and policies. She is a committee member of the Air Transport Research Society (of the World Conference on Transport Research) and of the British and Irish Section of the Regional Science Association International.



Dr Sheila Killian holds a BA in Mathematics, an MBS focused on earnings management and a PhD in taxation. She qualified as an associate of the Irish Tax Institute in 1989 and as a Chartered Accountant in 1992. Her research, spanning CSR, accounting, taxation and development issues, has been published on five continents. She has worked in third level education in South Africa and Finland, and lectures in corporate social responsibility and finance at the Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick. Sheila previously worked in taxation with Ernst & Young , KPMG and Arthur Andersen, and in the aviation finance industry. Sheila is the founding Chair of Soweto Connection, an Irish non-profit organisation working with South African township communities.



John Lennon is the Moffat Professor and Director of the Moffat Centre for Travel and Tourism Business Development at Caledonian University, Glasgow. He has undertaken over 500 tourism and travel projects in 35 nations. John is a specialist Policy Advisor to Visit Scotland, a non-executive director of Historic Scotland and a Board member of the Canadian Tourism Commission European Marketing Group. He is the author of five books and over 100 articles. John was involved in the strategic planning of the original Scottish Homecoming event on behalf of Scottish Government and has been involved in the conception, development and monitoring and evaluation of festivals since 1999.



Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Georg Arlt FRGS has an M.A. in Sinology and PhD in Political Sciences from FU Berlin. Work experience as publisher, journalist, consultant, organizer of fairs and exhibitions, outbound and inbound tour operator, all in connection with China, tourism and transportation. First visit to People's Republic of China in 1978, more than 100 visits since. Professor for International Tourism Management since 2002, currently at West Coast University of Applied Sciences Germany (Heide/Germany). Member of University Senate, Vice Dean of Faculty of Economics. He is the founder and director of COTRI, China Outbound Tourism Research Institute (since 2004). He has authored a number of books and articles on China's outbound tourism.



Peter Nash is Head of Strategy Development & Insights at Tourism Ireland.. , He has held marketing and strategy roles in both the public and the private sector in Ireland. An economist by training he lectured in UCC and was a senior researcher with An Foras Taluntais, now Teagasc. Peter then held a variety of research, marketing and strategy roles at Guinness and later Diageo Ireland. More recently he was head of the school of business at the National College of Ireland. Peter is a member of the GB review team convened under the auspices of the Tourism Recovery Task Force to whom it recently submitted its final report.



Marie Ryan is full time economics lecturer at the Centre for Policy Studies, National University of Ireland, Cork. She is a PhD candidate at the National Centre for Tourism Policy Studies, Limerick, under the supervision of Prof. Jim Deegan. She was awarded a research scholarship by the Irish Hotels Federation (IHF). Marie completed her BA, Higher Diploma, Master's degree and a Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning at NUI Cork. Marie's interests lie in the area of tourism, social policy, health economics and education policy. She has presented papers in all of these areas.



Dr Steve MacFeely is Director of Business Statistics in the Central Statistics Office and is responsible for the development and compilation of Agriculture, Construction, Industry, Services, Tourism, Transport, R&D, Innovation and Energy data. He is a member of the UNWTO Council and the InRoute Scientific Committee. The work of Steve and colleagues at the Central Statistics Office related to using various forms of data sources to estimate tourism employment has received international attention in recent times.



Olivia O'Leary has presented television and radio programmes over the last three decades for RTE, the BBC and ITV, and has been a political writer for the Irish Times and the Sunday Tribune. She also presented the "Between Ourselves" discussion programme for BBC Radio 4. Two collections of her political columns for RTE Radio 1's 'Drivetime' programme have been published by O'Brien Press.