



Keynote Speaker

Dr Tom Farrelly

Panel Chair

Dr. Linda Butler Neff

Panelists

Hugh Sullivan

Jeanette Garcia Kola

Dr Julie Uí Choistealbha

Kyle Quinn

Dr Marcella Finnerty

Dr Tom Farrelly

William Beausang



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Alexander Victor

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Dr Tom Farrelly

Dr Tom Farrelly is a social science lecturer at Munster Technological University (MTU) and adjunct faculty at Trinity College Dublin (TCD). With over twenty years' experience in higher education, his interests include digital education, the social aspects of LMS/VLE use, generative AI, and open access publishing. He completed his Doctorate in Education in 2010 on lifelong learners' use of virtual learning environments and continues to explore the potential of digital learning. At MTU, he teaches on Social Care Work and Nursing programmes, supervises research on the MA in e-Learning Design and Development, and co-chairs the Human Research Ethics Committee. A dedicated lifelong learner, he recently completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Leadership and Digital Transformation at the Technological University of the Shannon.



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Hugh Sullivan

Hugh Sullivan is Consulting Director at Crowe, leading the Education and Training Consulting Team and overseeing major review and transformation projects across education, healthcare, justice, and regulation. With an MA in International Higher Education and over a decade of consulting experience, he has advised institutions, government bodies, and agencies on strategic and operational initiatives. Formerly a Quality Assurance Manager at Hibernia College, Hugh brings deep sector expertise and a commitment to innovation. As Crowe's technology lead for consulting, he drives the secure, ethical, and effective adoption of AI and automation to enhance consulting practices and outcomes.



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Jeanette Garcia Kola

Jeanette Garcia Kola is a senior researcher and lecturer at Griffith College Research Hub, leading the European Commission co-funded AI4VET4AI project, which focuses on ethical and accessible AI upskilling in further and vocational education. She is a PhD candidate at UCD's School of Politics and International Relations, specializing in Foreign Aid, Development Studies, Climate Politics, and Sustainable Finance. Jeanette holds an MSc in Politics and Data Science from UCD, a Master's in International Education from Universidad de Alcalá de Henares, and a Political Science degree from the University of the Philippines Diliman. Her expertise includes NLP, data wrangling, mixed methods, and machine learning in policy research.



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Dr Julie Uí Choistealbha

Dr Julie Uí Choistealbha is Registrar at Hibernia College, Ireland's largest initial teacher education provider. With over 20 years' experience in education, she has held senior academic roles including Dean of Education and Director of Undergraduate Studies. Julie led a national research project on teacher induction for the Teaching Council and has contributed to the teacher education knowledge base nationally and internationally, including reviewing European School whole-school inspections. She is currently Co-chair of SCoTENS, promoting cross-border collaboration in teacher education across Ireland.



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Kyle Quinn

Kyle Quinn is a psychology graduate from Griffith College Dublin, holding a BA (Hons) in Psychology (2025). During his studies, he conducted a research project on gambling and sports betting in Ireland, contributing valuable insights to an important area of psychological research. His primary interests lie in addiction and recovery studies. Since completing his degree, Kyle has spoken at Higher Options in the RDS and participated in multiple professional workshops, including sessions for guidance counsellors nationwide. He is passionate about continuing his professional development and advancing his career in the field of psychology.



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Dr Linda Butler Neff

Dr Linda Butler Neff leads research in the Professional Masters in Education (Primary Education) at Hibernia College. A former Chair of the College's Ethics Committee, she is an active member of the HECA Research Conference Working Group and has served as lead Research Methods tutor for both PMEP and PMEPP. Her research focuses on teaching practice, creative pedagogies, the integration of technology in education, and community-driven learning spaces.



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Dr Marcella Finnerty

Dr Marcella Finnerty is Chair of the Higher Education Colleges Association (HECA) and President Emerita of IICP College, which she founded and developed into one of Ireland's leading centres for counselling and psychotherapy education (now part of the Folens Group). She also founded the Village Counselling Service, a major community-based charity offering low-cost therapy. Marcella has held senior academic and research roles at Trinity College Dublin and served on the CORU Council, CORU Registration Board, and IACP Board. Her leadership integrates relational education, applied research, and ethical practice, advancing psychotherapy, higher education, and community wellbeing through compassion and collaboration



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William Beausang

William Beausang serves as an Assistant Secretary in the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. In this role, he is responsible for key areas that advance Ireland's knowledge and innovation ecosystem. His responsibilities include Innovation, Research and Development Policy, shaping national strategies to promote excellence in science and technology. He also oversees Research Programmes that strengthen collaboration between academia, industry, and government. Additionally, he manages Ireland's participation in the European Social Fund (ESF) and European Globalisation Fund (EGF), supporting skills and employment initiatives. Beausang's remit also covers International policy engagement, enhancing Ireland's global research partnerships and influence.



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Abhishek Krishna Pillai

Abhishek Krishna Pillai holds a background in pharmacy with over a decade of experience in clinical trials data analytics and health outcomes research. His expertise spans healthcare data, real-world evidence, and the application of advanced analytics. Motivated by the growing role of AI in healthcare, he has developed skills in Python, R, and data visualization, focusing on machine learning applications in neuroscience and mental health. Currently, he explores meditation-related neural processes using EEG data. Abhishek aims to transition into academia, combining research and teaching to promote interdisciplinary learning and contribute to evidence-based innovation in health and wellbeing.



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Alexander Victor

Alexander Victor is a financial and applied mathematician specializing in machine learning and artificial intelligence, with a strong focus on time series analysis. His research centers on developing advanced data augmentation techniques, including GAN-based generative models, to address challenges like data imbalance, scarcity, and long-term dependency modeling. Currently, he explores bifurcation-inspired generative approaches to improve the diversity and robustness of synthetic time series across domains such as finance, climate, and sensor data. Combining deep theoretical knowledge with practical ML implementation, Alexander's broader interests include generative modeling, stochastic processes, and financial engineering, aimed at scalable, real-world AI applications.



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Amy Cannon

Amy Cannon is a Lecturer in Digital Marketing at Dublin Business School, with expertise in applied curriculum design, content marketing, and creative collaboration in higher education. She holds an MPhil in Marketing and brings over a decade of industry experience as the founder of an award-winning digital agency. Amy's research explores the intersection of strategy and creative production through interdisciplinary, practice-based learning. She co-leads cross-school collaborations on live-client digital advertising projects and has presented her work at major conferences. A contributing author to *Social Marketing: Rebels with a Cause*, she is currently developing a case study on cross-disciplinary marketing education.



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Amy Hayes

Amy Hayes is the Academic Programmes Manager at Dublin Business School, where she oversees the development and review of QQI-accredited programmes. She holds a joint BA (Hons) in History and Ancient Classics from Maynooth University and an MSc in Information and Library Management from DBS. Amy has also served as Programme Level Manager and lecturer for the MSc in Information and Library Management. She is a member of the editorial board for the *DBS Applied Research and Theory Journal*, contributing to the advancement of academic publishing and programme excellence at the institution.



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Andrew Wall

Andrew Wall holds a Professional Master of Education (PME) and a PhD in Education, with a professional background grounded in teaching and academic research. He has lectured extensively in the Philosophy of Education across B.A., PME, and PhD programmes in various higher education institutions throughout Ireland. Currently, Andrew is a full-time Teaching Fellow at Hibernia College. His work focuses on fostering critical thinking and reflective practice in teacher education, underpinned by a strong foundation in educational theory and philosophy. He is committed to advancing pedagogical excellence through both academic scholarship and engaged, practice-based teaching.



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Dr Anesu Nyabadza

Dr Anesu Nyabadza is a part-time lecturer and project supervisor at Dublin Business School, where he has been teaching on the MSc programmes in Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics for over two years. He is also a member of the research staff at Dublin City University, applying AI to the sustainable manufacturing of battery electrodes. His broader aim is to advance reliable, scalable quality control for next-generation energy storage, supporting the growing demand driven by electric vehicles and autonomous delivery systems.



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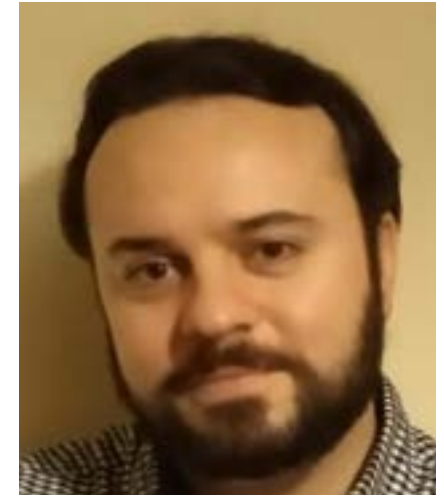
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Antonio Felipe Cora Martins

Antonio Felipe Cora Martins is an experienced IT professional with 20 years of expertise in data analytics and IT management. He holds an MSc in Data Analytics from CCT College Dublin and an MSc in Business Management from FMU Brazil. Antonio has contributed to research and publications in the fields of IT, business management, and innovation. Currently, he serves as the Data Analytics Manager at Version 1 in Ireland, where he leads data-driven initiatives to support strategic decision-making and business growth.



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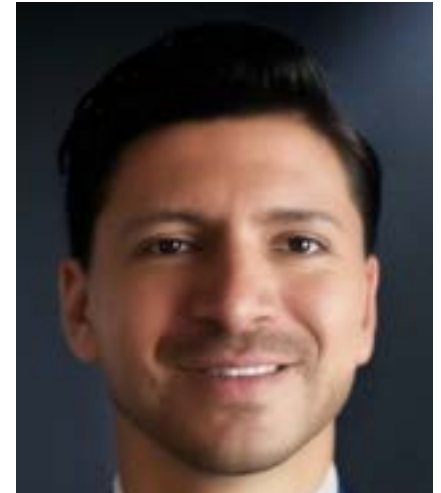
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Arturo Vazquez Zepeda

Arturo Vázquez Zepeda is a College Lecturer at Dublin Business School, teaching Cybersecurity, Cloud Architecture, Web Development, and Network Security. With over 20 years of experience, he has worked as a Cloud Engineer and Virtualisation Specialist for global companies like Rackspace Technology and Telcel. Holding an MBA in Cloud Computing and an MSc in Computer Science, Arturo combines technical expertise with a human-centred teaching approach that integrates ethics, empathy, and wellbeing. Based in Dublin and originally from Mexico City, he is passionate about using education to foster empathy, resilience, and ethical awareness in the age of Artificial Intelligence.



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Aswini Kumar Vyomakesan Nair

Aswini Kumar Vyomakesan Nair holds an MSc in Business Analytics from Dublin Business School and has over ten years of HR experience. His research applies data science and explainable AI to promote sustainable, evidence-based decision-making. His study on “Predicting Parcel-Level Land Valuation Patterns Using Machine Learning and Explainable AI” explores interpretable machine learning models to improve transparency and resilience in urban land valuation policies. Aswini is committed to integrating data analytics with social and economic systems to foster informed, equitable, and future-ready development.



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Dr Chris Gibbons

Dr Gibbons is a lecturer at Queen's University Belfast (since 2001), Dublin Business School (since 2008), and Trinity College Dublin (since 2023). His dual research interests span health psychology—focusing on stress, coping, and achievement—and enhancing the quality of teaching and learning across education. A Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and qualified school teacher, he is committed to enriching student learning. Dr Gibbons founded the Association for Psychology Teachers (APT) in 1995, promoting CPD and student engagement. His dedication to teaching excellence has earned him multiple awards, including a National Teaching Hero Award in 2022.



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Caroline Bennis

Caroline Bennis is an Associate Lecturer in Communication Design at Griffith College Dublin and founder of Flourish by Design. With over 23 years of experience, she has worked on creative design projects across Ireland and Scotland, including collaborations with Irish Government agencies on health and environmental initiatives. Caroline teaches Graphic, Interior, and Fashion Design students, focusing on Adobe Creative Cloud, Graphic Communication, and Typography. Through Flourish by Design, she supports leadership and professional development, tackling issues like Imposter Syndrome. She recently completed a Master's in Education, Learning and Development, with research on the explicit teaching of empathy.



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David Rinehart

David Rinehart is Joint Managing Editor of the *DBS Applied Research and Theory Journal* and a librarian with a background in Latin American studies and library science. He holds an MA in Latin American Studies from the University of Florida and an MSc in Library and Information Studies from Robert Gordon University. David has held library roles at Maynooth University, Dundalk IT, and DBS. He is co-founder of the Queer Library Alliance, which advocates for LGBTQ+ library users and professionals facing far-right threats in Ireland.



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Fiona Behan

Fiona Behan recently completed her MSc in Data Analytics at CCT College Dublin, graduating with First Class Honours. Her research explored the use of machine learning and deep learning techniques to detect monthly weather anomalies in Ireland, offering a comparative analysis of various models for climate anomaly detection. Fiona has developed strong skills in statistical analysis, time series modelling, feature engineering, and model interpretability, using tools such as Python, TensorFlow, XGBoost, and SHAP. Passionate about applying data science to environmental and societal challenges, she aims to contribute to climate adaptation strategies and sustainable, data-informed decision-making in her future career.



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Greg Christodoulou

Greg Christodoulou is a counselling practitioner, academic lecturer, and addiction specialist with over 25 years of experience across client care, education, policy, and therapeutic services. A member of Addiction Counsellors of Ireland (MACI), he lectures at ICHAS and contributes to the development of accredited programmes in addiction and psychotherapy. His work spans trauma, addiction, family systems, and public policy, with a strong focus on rights-based, ethical, and inclusive service delivery. Greg has led multidisciplinary teams in youth, community, and harm reduction settings. He holds advanced qualifications in psychotherapy, addiction counselling, and social justice, and is a committed advocate for equality.



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John Lenehan

John Lenehan is an educational technologist with over two decades of experience dedicated to driving innovation and enhancing education through technology. As Learning Technology Manager in the Digital Learning Department at Hibernia College, Ireland, he collaborates with internal teams and external partners to develop solutions that support the College's blended-learning model. John's work spans diverse projects, requiring expertise in research, training and development, user experience design, web development, and project management. His broad skill set enables him to create impactful digital learning experiences that improve teaching and student engagement.



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Joshua Chiwueze Onunwor

Joshua Chiwueze Onunwor is a strategic tender and procurement specialist with a background in electrical engineering and strong commercial expertise. He most recently served as Tender Manager and Proposal & Costing Manager at SPIE Global Services Energy, leading high-value bids for energy projects across Nigeria and Ghana for clients such as TotalEnergies, ExxonMobil, and Shell. Joshua brings expertise in technical bid writing, cost estimation, value engineering, and stakeholder coordination. Certified in PMP and CIPS, he holds an MSc in Procurement & Supply Chain Management and a BEng in Electrical & Electronics Engineering. Based in Dublin, he is exploring new opportunities in energy and infrastructure.



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Manjula Vijayaraghavan

Manjula Vijayaraghavan holds a Master of Science in Big Data Management and Analytics from Griffith College Dublin. With a strong background in computer science and data analytics, she brings practical experience in machine learning, cloud computing, and data visualization. Her research, *“Predicting Shoreline Segment Lengths Using Machine Learning and Geospatial Metadata,”* introduces a metadata-driven framework using regression models and explainable AI (SHAP, LIME) to support Ireland’s National Coastal Change Management Strategy. Passionate about environmental sustainability, Manjula aims to apply analytical and geospatial techniques to address real-world challenges, particularly in coastal resilience, environmental monitoring, and sustainable policy development.



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Martin Nunan

Martin Nunan is a Student Support Lead at IICP College and Hibernia College, and a practising counsellor since 2010 and psychotherapist since 2018. With over 25 years' experience in the disability sector across Ireland and the U.S., he has led impactful programmes including the rollout of the IRFU Disability Rugby programme and the HSE's National New Directions initiative. He also managed Acquired Brain Injury Ireland's services in the Midlands during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, Martin is dedicated to supporting student well-being, using innovative, student-centred approaches to guide individuals through challenges and promote meaningful, compassionate educational experiences.



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Dr Muhammad Iqbal

Dr Muhammad Iqbal is a Senior Lecturer at CCT College Dublin, where he has taught full-time since 2020. He previously lectured at the National College of Ireland from 2014 to 2020. He earned his PhD in numerical modelling of discharge plasmas at Dublin City University, supported by an SFI Scholarship, and later worked as a postdoctoral researcher in the Precision SRC project. His expertise spans algorithm development, C++ programming, and numerical simulation. Dr Iqbal has published widely in high-impact journals, and his current research focuses on data analytics, machine learning, deep learning, and the role of AI in education.



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Niamh McHenry

Niamh McHenry is the Digital Literacy Librarian and Senior Editor of the *DBS Applied Research and Theory Journal* at Dublin Business School. Since joining DBS Library in 2023, she has advanced from library assistant to Outreach Librarian, where her innovative social media work earned her a 2024 Kaplan Way Award nomination. Niamh holds a Master's in Library and Information Science from UCD, graduating with First Class Honours. In her current role, she supports students through workshops and consultations, promoting digital literacy and engagement with academic resources.



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Nicas Issa Nelson

Nicas Issa Nelson is a pharmacist with over a decade of experience in pharmaceutical supply chain management. A graduate of Makerere University–Uganda, he holds a Master's in Pharmaceutical Business Management from Griffith College, Cork. Since 2013, he has served with the Tanzanian Ministry of Health in roles including District Pharmacist, TB/HIV National Facilitator, and member of the National TB/HIV Working Team. He also sits on the Regional Health Procurement Tender Board. Nicas has completed advanced training in infectious disease control, phage display biotechnology, and supply chain systems, and is deeply committed to strengthening health systems and improving medicine accessibility in Tanzania.



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Nilay Udeshi

Nilay Udeshi is an AI Researcher at Hibernia College, working within the Learning Technology Team in the Digital Learning Department. With a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology and a Master's in Data Analytics from the University of Galway, Nilay's research focuses on learning analytics and the application of AI to enhance digital education. His master's thesis examined transformer models and machine learning techniques for detecting AI-generated text, and he published research on AR/VR applications for e-convocation ceremonies. He is passionate about leveraging data-driven insights and emerging technologies to create more engaging and effective learning experiences.



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Norma Sanchez Morales

Norma Sanchez Morales is an internal auditor and supply chain specialist from Mexico with over five years of experience conducting operational and financial audits in logistics and international supply chain settings. She excels at identifying control weaknesses, optimizing processes, and delivering data-driven insights to senior stakeholders. Currently completing a Master's in Procurement and Supply Chain Management, Norma's practice-based dissertation focuses on blockchain applications for food traceability in collaboration with an Irish company. She is passionate about enhancing governance, risk management, and internal controls across complex business functions to drive operational excellence.



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Robert McKenna

Robert McKenna is Head Librarian at Griffith College with over 25 years of experience in teaching and learning. He has actively contributed to National Forum projects and served as a delegate. His work primarily focuses on authentic and alternative assessment methods as well as promoting reflective practices in education.



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Dr Siddhi Pramod Dalvi

Dr Siddhi Pramod Dalvi holds a Doctor of Pharmacy degree and recently completed a Master's in Pharmaceutical Business Management with First Class Honours at Griffith College, Cork. She has professional experience as a Medical Advisor at Eris Lifesciences, supporting product launches in immunology and dermatology, contributing to medico-marketing initiatives, and driving evidence generation strategies. Previously, she worked as a Clinical Pharmacist with responsibilities in pharmacovigilance and patient care. Her research interests focus on the integration of artificial intelligence and real-world evidence (RWE) to enhance lifecycle and portfolio management, aiming to connect scientific innovation with strategic commercial outcomes in healthcare.



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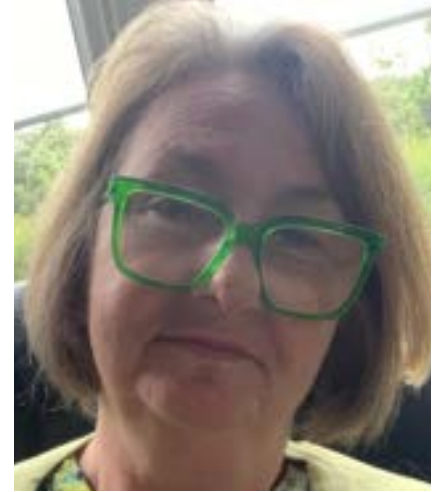
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Susan O'Brien

Susan O'Brien brings over 20 years of teaching experience in business, marketing, market research, philosophy, ethics, and bioethics at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in England. While researching for a PhD on the Holocaust and the church, she relocated to Ireland and pursued postgraduate studies at UCD in World Heritage, followed by a Master's in Psychotherapy and Counselling at ICHAS, graduating with Distinction in 2025. Her Master's dissertation is currently prepared for publication. Susan now practices as a psychotherapist in Limerick, specialising in Person-Centred Therapy and Couples and Family Counseling.



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Trevor Haugh

Trevor Haugh is Joint Managing Editor of the *DBS Applied Research and Theory Journal* and Head of Library at Dublin Business School. With over 15 years of experience at DBS Library, he has held key roles including Deputy Librarian, Head of Reader Services, and Information Skills Manager. Trevor has also lectured and supervised research on the MSc in Information and Library Management. His leadership supports the journal's commitment to academic excellence and accessibility, while his long-standing service reflects a deep commitment to library innovation and student engagement.



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Viridiana Monserrat Valentin Vera

Viridiana Monserrat Valentin Vera is a Mexican Food Engineer with over a decade of experience in procurement, supply chain management, quality assurance, and continuous improvement. She has managed diverse categories including raw materials, ingredients, and indirect services, and has led multidisciplinary teams across these functions. Passionate about knowledge sharing, she also lectured part-time at a university in Mexico City, preparing students for professional life. Driven by a love of learning and cultural exchange, she relocated to Ireland and recently completed a Master's in Pharmaceutical Business Management. Viridiana continues to explore new opportunities that merge technical expertise with global perspectives.



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Xu Han

Dr. Xu Han is a Lecturer in Accounting and Finance at Dublin Business School. She holds a PhD in Business (Finance) from Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin, with research focused on corporate risk culture, governance, and foreign exchange risk management. She has taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses in international finance and contingent claims and previously tutored in corporate and financial management subjects. Dr. Han was a visiting research student at National Taiwan University and has presented her work at leading conferences, including EFMA, FMA Europe, PBFEM, IAFA, and TFA. Her interests lie in international finance, governance, and risk management.



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