

Supplement File S1

There are 10 media conglomerates in Ireland:

1. Mediahuis owns the *Irish Independent*, *Independent.ie*, the *Sunday Independent*, the *Belfast Telegraph*, *Belfasttelegraph.co.uk*, *Sunday World*, *SundayWorld.com*, *Sunday Life*, *The Herald*, *Ireland's Own*, the *Argus*, *Drogheda Independent*, *Fingal Independent*, *Bray People*, *The Sligo Champion*, *The Kerryman*, *The Corkman*, *Wicklow People*, *Enniscorthy Guardian*, *Wexford People*, *Gorey Guardian* and *New Ross Standard*.
2. Iconic Newspapers own *Donegal Democrat*, *Donegal People's Press*, *Donegal Post*, *Dundalk Democrat*, *Finn Valley Post*, *Inish Times*, *Kildare Post*, *Kilkenny People*, *Kilkenny Reporter*, *Leinster Express*, *Leitrim Observer*, *Letterkenny People*, *Letterkenny Post*, *Limerick Chronicle*, *Limerick Leader*, *Longford Leader*, *Midland Tribune*, *The Nationalist*, *Tipperary Star* and *Tullamore Tribune*.
3. Celtic Media owns five regional print newspapers: *The Connaught Telegraph*, the *Anglo Celt*, *Meath Chronicle*, *Westmeath Examiner* and *Westmeath Independent*.
4. The Irish Times Group owns the *Irish Examiner*, *The Echo*, *The Nationalist*, *Leinster Times*, the *Roscommon Herald*, the *Western People*, *WKW FM* and *South East Broadcasting*.
5. Bauer Media owns *Today FM*, *Newstalk*, *98 FM* and *Spin 1038*, *Spin South West* and *OTB Sports*.
6. Wireless Group owns *Live 95FM*, *LMFM*, *Dublin's Q102*, *FM104*, *Cork's 96FM* and *C103*.
7. Radio Kerry Holdings owns *Radio Kerry*, *Shannonside* and *Northern Sound* radio stations.
8. The Connacht Tribune Group owns *Galway Bay FM*.
9. The Advertiser Newspaper Group owns *The Galway Advertiser*, *The Mayo Advertiser* and *The Athlone Advertiser*.
10. Topic Newspapers own *The Westmeath Topic*, *The Meath Topic*, *The Athlone Topic* and *The Offaly Topic*.

Supplement S2

FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE INFORMATION LETTER FOR JOURNALIST

Dear Participant,

My name is Emer Connolly and I am currently studying for a PhD degree in the Department of Sociology at the University of Limerick. My PhD research is entitled: A SOCIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF THE CHANGING WORK PRACTICES OF JOURNALISTS IN IRELAND. I am working under the supervision of Dr Martin J Power and Professor Eoin Devereux.

What is this study about?

Work practices in journalism have changed dramatically over the past 15 years or so due to factors including technological change, increased commercialization and the rise of citizen journalism.

My aim is to examine the factors behind these changes and look at the impact they have had on journalists' work practices and on overall standards of journalism. There has been limited research carried out on this in Ireland to-date. The aim of this original research is to bring a new perspective and add to the debate on the future of Irish journalism.

The focus in this project will be on work practices from the perspectives of those working in the Irish media.

I am carrying out in-depth qualitative interviews with journalists working in the regional and national media, across media platforms; in the print, broadcast and online media.

What will you have to do?

If you think that you match the profile of the kind of person to whom I am seeking to talk to and are willing to be involved, I would be grateful if you would consider participating in a one to one interview. Interviews will be no more than 60 minutes in length. The interview will take place at a location of your choice. During the interview you can decline to answer any questions that you like and you can withdraw from the research at any time without giving a reason. Your participation is entirely voluntary. If you decide to participate in this research I will ask you to share information about the changes to work practices that you have experienced in your work as a journalist.

Here are some sample questions that you will be asked during the interview:

* What has been the effect of changes in work practices on you?

- * What has been the effect of changes in work practices on your colleagues?
- * What impact have the changes in work practices had on your product in terms of content, design and layout?
- * How have the changes in work practices impacted on your audience?
- * Does the increase in use of social media mean that there is now more two-way interaction than in the past?
- * What impact have changes in the media world had on your job prospects and career plans?

What happens to the information?

I will audio record our interview, and afterwards an account of our conversation will be typed up. This will be kept in a locked cabinet and will be destroyed after seven years in order to comply with data storage regulations.

We will endeavour to protect the identity of our research participants but given the high profile of many of those involved in this case, it may not always be possible. In addition, in certain instances it may be that participants may not want anonymity. In your case you will be given a pseudonym in any written report which uses any of the content from our interview. You are very welcome to view a copy of the typed account of our interview if you wish to check that we have complied with our guarantees around anonymity and confidentiality.

If you have any queries or would like more information about the project please contact:

- * Principal investigator: Emer Connolly. Email: emer.connolly@ul.ie
- * Supervisors:
 Dr Martin J. Power. Email: martin.j.power@ul.ie
 Professor Eoin Devereux. Email: eoin.devereux@ul.ie

This research study has received Ethics approval from the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee. If you have any concerns about this study or your participation and wish to contact an independent authority, you may contact:

Chairperson Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee AHSS Faculty Office
 University of Limerick Tel: +353 61 202286 Email: FAHSSethics@ul.ie

I will contact you again in 7 days' time to ask for your decision as to whether or not you are willing to participate. If you are happy to be interviewed, then we would ask you to sign the consent form which accompanies this letter. A copy of this letter will also be made available to you to keep.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

Kind regards,

Emer Connolly

FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE
CONSENT FORM FOR JOURNALIST

Consent Section:

I, the undersigned, declare that I am willing to take part in research for the project entitled:

“A SOCIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF THE CHANGING WORK PRACTICES OF
JOURNALISTS IN IRELAND.”

- I declare that I have been fully briefed on the nature of this study and my role in it and have been given the opportunity to ask questions before agreeing to participate.
- The nature of my participation has been explained to me, and I have full knowledge of how the information collected will be used.
- I am aware that my participation in this study will be audio recorded and I agree to this. However, should I feel uncomfortable at any time I can request that the recording software be switched off. I am entitled to copies of all recordings made and am fully informed as to what will happen to these recordings once the study is completed.
- I am also aware that any information, or recordings collected will be securely stored, and destroyed after seven years in line with the Data Protection Act.
- I am aware that such information may also be used in future academic presentations and publications about this study.
- I fully understand that there is no obligation on me to participate in this study.
- I fully understand that I am free to withdraw my participation at any time without having to explain or give a reason.
- I am entitled to anonymity.
- I am entitled to confidentiality in terms of my participation and personal details.

I may choose to waive my anonymity by ticking the box below; in this case, confidentiality will still be maintained with regard to any statements I make which are not relevant to this particular project.

☐ I would like to be named in the reporting of this project, including within future academic presentations and publications.

If I have ticked the above box, I would like to be referred to as: _____

Signature of participant

Date

Supplement S3

Here is a table of the participants in this research:.

Journalist	Description/Specialism	Staff/contract/freelance	National/Regional media	Print/Broadcast sector	Type of media organisation/Ownership Structure
Journalist One (J1)	He has worked in one media organisation for 10 years. He researches and edits news packages for a news/current affairs programme.	Staff – 35 hours a week (Monday – Friday)	National	Broadcast	State Broadcaster – Government-appointed board runs the organisation
Journalist Two (J2)	She has worked in regional, national and online media over a period of 12 years and currently works mainly on features.	Staff – 5 x 8 hour shifts every week (Monday – Friday)	National	Broadcast	State Broadcaster – Government-appointed board runs the organisation
Journalist Three (J3)	He has worked in various national newspapers over a 20 year period. He currently focuses mainly on investigative Journalism.	Staff – works long hours when covering specific stories and takes time in lieu	National	Print	National Print Publication – owned by UK-based news group
Journalist Four (J4)	He has worked in print and broadcast over 40 years, covering news and sport, and currently freelances for a national media organisation.	Freelance – three to four shifts a week	National	Broadcast	State Broadcaster – Government-appointed board runs the organisation

Journalist Five (J5)	He has worked as a sports journalist for 50 years. Most of this was in a regional newspaper newsroom but he has left that organisation and freelances for a print/online media.	Freelance/Contract– works weekends and two days during the week	Regional	Print	Regional newspaper: family-owned and managed
Journalist Six (J6)	He has worked in print and broadcast Journalism for more than 20 years and mainly focuses on covering news.	Staff- he works in excess of 50 hours a week and takes time in lieu during quieter times of the year	Regional	Print	Regional print publication – Owned by a UK-based news group
Journalist Seven (J7)	He has worked in three regional print newspapers over a 20-year period covering mainly sport but also news to a lesser extent.	Staff – he works up to 50 hours a week and takes time in lieu during quieter times of the year	Regional	Print	Regional print publication – owned by a number of local shareholders (business people)
Journalist Eight (J8)	She had worked in the national print media for 15 years but decided in 2020 to leave the industry and move to a role in Public Relations. Changes in the industry, particularly the focus on online, social media and 24/7 news prompted her to decide to move out of the industry.	Staff– 40 hour week	National	Print	Owned by a UK-based news group
Journalist Nine (J9)	He has worked in national and regional print publications for 20 years, covering news and features.	Staff - Long hours are the norm and he takes time in lieu during quieter times of the year news-wise.	Regional	Print	Regional print publication, owned by a national print publication, which is run by a non-charitable Trust
Journalist Ten (J10)	She has worked as a photojournalist for 30 years, in national and regional publications, covering news and sport.	Freelance – she works on a freelance basis and her working week ranges from 20 hours to 70 hours.	Regional	Print	Regional print publications – all owned by an Irish newspaper group
Journalist Eleven (J11)	He works as a photojournalist, covering sport and has done this for more than 30 years.	Freelance/Contract – he works long hours, particularly at weekends covering sport.	National	Print	A range of national print publications: one is owned by a newspaper group based in Europe; two others are owned by

					other newspaper groups based in Ireland
Journalist Twelve (J12)	He has worked in a variety of national print publications over 20 years. He currently covers politics.	Staff – he works long hours, particularly during busy times for politics and takes time in lieu when the National Parliament is on vacation	National	Print	Owned by an investment company