

## Speakers

	<p>Professor Thia Hennessy, Dean of School and Chair of Agri-Food Economics at Cork University Business School. Her research interests include the sustainable development of the agri-food sector with a particular interest in the impact of public policy on the farm sector. Thia is a member of a number of international research consortia examining issues such as the economic performance of farms, the sustainability of food production and the impact of climate change on agriculture. She has published widely in both the academic literature and mainstream media. Prior to joining UCC in September 2016, Thia was employed by Teagasc, the Agriculture and Food Development Authority of Ireland where she managed the agricultural and environmental economic research programme. She was also responsible for the Teagasc National Farm Survey which produces the official national statistics on farming in Ireland and is a member of the European Commission's Farm Accountancy Data Network.</p>
<p>Professor Thia Hennessy <i>Dean Cork University Business School</i></p>	
	<p>Eimear is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Ireland, a Lecturer in Financial Accounting in CUBS and an associate of the Institute of Bankers. She has a broad range of experience in the private sector including Financial Reporting, Corporate Finance and SME Banking. Eimear trained as a Chartered Accountant in PwC in Belfast before transferring to the Corporate Finance Division of PwC in Dublin. In PwC, Eimear worked in Audit, Economics and Public Policy and as a manager in Corporate Finance where she worked on a range of assignments including advising a PPP (Public Private Partnerships) consortium, company valuations, feasibility studies, funding proposals, mergers, disposals and acquisitions. Before joining UCC, she worked in the banking sector where she managed a portfolio of both property and cash-flow loans, including distressed business loans. This experience has formed the basis of her PhD study on non-bank finance in the Irish SME sector.</p>
<p>Eimear McGeown <i>Cork University Business School</i></p>	



Prof. Marc Cowling,  
*University of Derby*

Professor of Business Economics and Head of Research and Innovation in the College of Business, Law, and Social Sciences at Derby University. He has a particular interest in identifying issues around the capitalisation of how firms and financiers interact with one another. Two particular areas of interest are credit rationing and the nature of debt contracts and provision, and the role of venture capital and informal equity in supporting innovation. He is investigating the consequences of banks' market power in the context of small business lending and the dynamics of credit supply over the recessionary cycle, and how informal investors make their portfolio investment decision in the context of crowd funding and P2P. Ranked in the top 8 per cent of economists in the world by citations (H-index) for his research. According to Research Publications in Economics (REPEC, May 2019), in the top 2.5 per cent of researchers on ResearchGate (May 2019) and in entrepreneurship he was ranked 23rd in the world over the period 1995-2006 according to "Rankings of the Top Entrepreneurship Researchers and Affiliations.



Ken Murnaghan  
*Managing Director,  
Finance Ireland  
Commercial Mortgages*


Ken Murnaghan is a member of the management board of Finance Ireland, a non-bank property, consumer and SME lender and is a non-executive member of the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman Council. He founded Finance Ireland's commercial property lending business in 2016, which has lent in excess of €500m to professional property owners since then. Ken was formerly Head of Business Banking at Ulster Bank and Head of European Real Estate at AIB where he established a French based European lending business, before which he had positions at PWC Hong Kong and EY Ireland. Ken is a fellow of Chartered Accountants Ireland and the Institute of Banking and is a business graduate of UCD.





Graham Byrne  
*CEO, Flender*

With over 20 years in the financial services industry, Graham Byrne has been directly involved in Irish SME's which have supplied goods and services in Ireland and overseas. The largest concentration of Graham's involvement is in providing funding directly to Irish SME's. In 2005, Graham started Bibby Financial Services Ireland (BFS). In that period up to 2013, BFS Ireland provided over 200m in funding, serviced over 500 customers, and was responsible for maintaining and creating over 5,000 jobs. BFS Ireland was award-winning in the industry and won the business of the year 2012 and 2013. Graham then took up the Chief Commercial Officer role for the European region tasked with restructuring 14 operating companies to increase customer service delivery and increase the availability of credit to EU SME's. Graham successfully started new businesses in Czech, Slovakia, and the Netherlands. The business grew to reach 2,500 clients providing

	<p>over 900m of funding to clients. Graham is also chairman of the Small firms association (SFA) and is on the board of IBEC.</p>
	<p>Garrett joined Microfinance Ireland as its Chief Executive in May 2016. Microfinance Ireland are a Government funded not-for-profit lender supporting small businesses and start-ups unable to get loan finance through banks and other commercial lenders. Over the last few years this business has grown rapidly supporting microenterprises across Ireland.</p> <p>Prior to joining MFI, Garrett worked in Bank of Ireland, where he had over 25 years senior management experience across many areas of banking in Ireland and overseas, including Board membership on a number of subsidiary companies in the Group.</p>
<p><b>Garrett Stokes</b> <i>Microfinance Ireland</i></p>	<p>During a diverse career, he held a range of senior management positions within Bank of Ireland, including Chief Operating Officer of Retail Banking in Ireland, Head of Group Change Management and Managing Director of First Rate Enterprises. He has global banking experience, with extensive knowledge of the SME sector.</p> <p>Garrett is a Chartered Secretary, a Fellow of the Institute of Bankers, Graduate of the Marketing Institute of Ireland and an alumni of Columbia Business School, New York.</p>
 <p><b>Shane O'Neill</b> <i>Davy Corporate Finance</i></p>	<p>Shane O'Neill is a Director at Ireland's leading Corporate Finance advisory company, Davy Corporate Finance. At Davy, Shane is responsible for Debt Advisory and advises Davy clients on all elements of debt structuring and origination including traditional bank debt, credit funds, bonds, pension fund private placement and private capital funding. He has extensive experience working with bank and non-bank funders in the Irish market incorporating SME and property finance. Shane also advises on private company equity, VC and mezzanine fundraising. The Davy Group has a 90+ year track record of fundraising for clients across all sectors including large corporate and government funding as well as SME's nationally.</p> <p>Prior to joining Davy, Shane worked in banking for 20 years including as Head of European Leveraged Finance at AIB Capital Markets and he was a member of the management team that established AIB Bank's Financial Solutions Group, where he had specific responsibility for developing the Corporate and SME restructuring strategy for the bank in the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis. This experience as a very senior lender, member of many credit committees and leader of a number of banking business units, informs his current role as Corporate Finance advisor at Davy.</p>

	<p>Michael is a Chartered Accountant and Associate Director in Davy Corporate Finance, Ireland’s leading corporate finance advisors. Michael’s focus is on advising corporates and SME’s across the spectrum on fund raising, M&amp;A and equity / debt capital market events. Having experience working with large corporates including DCC plc, Digicel and Home For Life, Michael also works with small and mid-size corporates across the different life cycle points and stakeholder ambitions. This includes raising and debt and equity from a number of sources including private equity, senior banks and unitranch / mezzanine providers both locally and internationally. Prior to joining Davy, Michael worked at Deloitte Corporate Finance. There he was part of the Debt and Capital Markets team specialising in advise to corporates and SME’s on debt financing, including refinance and restructuring.</p>
<p>Michael Meade <i>Davy Corporate Finance</i></p>	

	<p>Professor Edward Shinnick is Professor of Business Practice and Vice Dean of Accreditation &amp; Governance at Cork University Business School, University College Cork. His research areas include the economic analysis of competition in markets &amp; industries, SME finance, competition policy, regulation, and business strategy, where he has published a number of papers in a wide range of national and international journals, book chapters and edited book volumes. This research output has been presented at numerous conferences, both nationally and internationally. He has undertaken economic consultancy work for industry, has served on the Board of the National Consumer Agency (NCA) where he was also Chair of the NCA’s Audit Committee, and served as an International Reviewer for the Czech Science Foundation and on the editorial boards of the International Journal of Public Policy and the International Economics and Economic Policy.</p>
<p>Professor Edward Shinnick <i>Cork University Business School</i></p>	

	<p>Dr. Geraldine Ryan (MA, Ph.D.) is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Accounting and Finance at University College Cork. She undertook her doctoral thesis entitled ‘Understanding Asset Values’ in the Department of Economics, University of Warwick. Her research interests focus around firm valuation and business innovation, performance &amp; exit. She has published in highly ranked journals such as Economic Letters, Business Strategy &amp; The Environment, and Urban Studies. She has received a best paper award from Transeo, the European Association for SME Transfer. This paper was part of an IRCHSS funded project on small business succession (with Dr. Bernadette Power). She has secured competitive funding from bodies such as the IRCHSS, Enterprise Ireland, and the SEAI. She is Principal</p>
<p>Dr. Geraldine Ryan <i>Cork University Business School</i></p>	




investigator on a H2020 research project sponsored by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks on Multi-sectoral approaches to Innovative Skills Training for Renewable energy and social acceptance (MISTRAL) and she is co-investigator on a Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) project called Community Engagement in Wind Energy: Innovative approaches to achieving a social license (with Dr, Bernadette Power and Dr. John Eakins). Within UCC Geraldine is the Programme Director for MSc Finance (Corporate Finance) and serves on the College of Business and Law Curriculum Committee, the CUBS Academic Developments and Standards Committee, the Finance Staff-Student Consultation Committee, and the MSc Finance Programme Academic Board of Studies.



Prof. Robyn Owen



Robyn is currently a full-time Associate Professor specialising in Entrepreneurial Finance at CEEDR. Her recent research has included projects for the British Business Bank, Innovate UK and BEIS (UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy – formerly BIS). She is currently undertaking programme evaluations of Innovate UK’s Loan Pilots and Investment Accelerator Programme, the British Business Bank’s Regional Funds and the English evaluation of the European Regional Development Funds (ERDF). She previously managed Journeys to Finance for Innovative UK Businesses (published by BEIS, 2017), an Interim Evaluation of BIS Equity Schemes (2013-14), an Early Assessment of the Angel Co-investment Fund (2013-14), an Investigation into the Motivations Behind the Listing Decisions of UK Companies (2013) and an Early Assessment of the UK Innovation Investment Fund (UKIIF, 2012). Other related research for BIS has included investigating Mid-Cap bank finance issues (2011), an Early Assessment of the Impact of BIS Equity Fund Initiatives (2010). Robyn has also reported, in collaboration with SQW (2013) to the Greater London Authority on London's finance gaps for SMEs, proposing a need for further venture capital and on the future of equity and growth finance in Northern Ireland for DETI. Robyn is Co-Chair of the Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ISBE) special interest group in Entrepreneurial Finance, editorial board member of Venture Capital journal and has edited special issues in Venture Capital and strategic Change journals. She has also published in Environment and Planning C, International Small Business Journal and Urban Studies. Robyn is currently a Research Fellow at the ESRC funded Centre for Understanding Sustainable Prosperity (CUSP) where she is researching early stage green SME innovation financing. She is also guest editor of a Special Issue on green SME innovation finance for IEEE Transactions on

	Engineering Management journal, planned for publication in 2021.
	<p>Sarah-Jane Larkin is the director general of the Irish Venture Capital Association (IVCA). Sarah-Jane was formerly commercial director of MSD (Merck - NYSE: MRK). She has worked for over a decade at director level in the healthcare and medical device sectors for organisations including J&amp;J, Sisk Healthcare. During this phase of her career Sarah-Jane has also been involved with Trade Associations in the Healthcare sector, and spent some time as the Interim CEO of the Irish Medical and Surgical Trade Association. Prior to this Sarah-Jane gained a number of years experience in various Government agencies promoting international trade. A graduate of UCD, she also holds an MBA from the Smurfit Business School</p>
<p>Sarah Jane Larkin <i>Director General, Irish Venture Capital Association</i></p>	
	<p>Larry O'Donoghue is a Senior Consultant with CorkBIC, Larry's role is to support high potential startups across the South West region. Prior to that, Larry worked for over eighteen years in technology, management consultancy, utilities, construction and sales training, in Boston, Dublin, London and Singapore, with companies such as State Street Bank, Sun Microsystems, PA Consulting and Singapore Power. On returning to Ireland, Larry founded and built two companies over ten years. Larry's focus at CorkBIC is to work with entrepreneurs through concept development, market feasibility, business planning, funding, commercialisation and international growth stages. He works with a significant proportion of Enterprise Ireland's HPSUs each year and runs the HBAN Boole Investment Syndicate in Cork, with a membership of over 25 active angel investors.</p>
<p>Larry O'Donoghue <i>Cork BIC</i></p>	
	<p>Fergal is a Senior Investment Director with the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) which is an €9.5bn sovereign development fund with a mandate to make commercial investments which result in economic activity and employment in Ireland. The ISIF invests in all industry sectors, both directly and indirectly, and due to its nature as an "evergreen" fund has flexibility to consider longer duration investments. Fergal is responsible for sourcing and managing ISIF's direct equity investments and investments in private equity funds, alternative debt funds, all which support the growth and scaling of indigenous companies. He is a non-exec Director of several ISIF investee companies.</p>
<p>Dr. Fergal McAleavey <i>Ireland Strategic Investment Fund</i></p>	<p>He was previously Managing Director at AIB Corporate Finance; he worked in the Department of Finance which had responsibility for the completion of the restructuring of the</p>

	Irish banking system. Fergal has an MSc in Physics from DCU and a PhD in Physics from Trinity College.



Dr. Bernadette Power  
*Cork University Business School*

Dr. Bernadette Power is a lecturer in the School of Economics, University College Cork. Her Ph.D. from University of St. Andrews focussed on the survival of small businesses in Scotland. Bernadette’s principal research interests are in small business economics and entrepreneurship. She has published in this area in the following journals Urban Studies, Managerial and Decision Economics, Review of Industrial Organization, The European Journal of Finance, The Irish Journal of Management, The International Journal of the Economics of Business and in a number of Chapters in books including The Foundations of Small Business Enterprise: An Entrepreneurial Analysis of Small Firm Inception. She has received awards for her research including the recent Transeo Academic Best Paper Award by the European Association for SME Transfer. This IRCHSS funded research was on small business succession (with Dr. Geraldine Ryan). She has a consistent record in securing competitive funding from bodies such as the EPA, the IRCHSS and Enterprise Ireland. Her work on long-lived small firms with Prof. Gavin Reid was presented at the Welsh Economic Assembly. Her work has also been presented at other policy forums such as the Policy Forum on Rethinking Irish Economic Development, West Cork Development Partnership Conference, EU ETS, Climate Change and Brexit Conference and at other academic institutions in Ireland and internationally.