

DON DUNCAN

SUMMARY

Journalist and documentarian with twenty years' experience in Ireland and globally. Work in a **digital-first manner** in the **“multimedia mindset” mode of journalism**. Published and broadcast by top international platforms including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Guardian*, BBC, NPR, CBC and RTÉ, among others

Currently a full-time **lecturer at Queen's University Belfast**, working across undergrad and postgrad levels. Over ten years' experience **teaching and training various aspects of journalism**. Extensive experience in the practice and teaching of multimedia production (social media journalism, digital-first publishing, mobile journalism ('MoJo'), verification, SEO and analytics). Significant experience in foreign corresponding and in long-form storytelling

Academic research areas: digital media, social media, evolving media ethics, media disruption and democracy, digital verification, documentary, narrative podcasting, investigative journalism in the digital era, media and multilingualism, Irish language media

SKILLS & ABILITIES

Social Media publishing software (Hootsuite, SocialPilot); analytics tools (Google Analytics, Matamo, Piwik PRO); video editing software (Final Cut Pro, Premiere and Avid); audio editing software (ProTools, Audition, Reaper, Audacity); 'MoJo' shooting and editing softwares; photo editing software; as well as various podcasting publishing platforms

Languages: fluent French; proficient Irish; intermediate Arabic

ACADEMIC/TEACHING EXPERIENCE

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

08/2018 – Present

Lecturer of Journalism and Documentary

- Created, developed and implemented a full journalism syllabus at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels
- Applied a social media sensibility and “multimedia mindset” to the core of all journalism and documentary modules in the subject area
- Teach practice modules, strongly underpinned by critical theory
- Have written and taught five modules from scratch (including social media journalism and podcasting modules) all of which incorporate online editorial strategy, UGC, verification, SEO and analytics
- Average personal teaching score (voted by students at the end of every module each semester) is: 4.65 out of 5
- Supervise research and practice projects at BA and MA levels

- Help evolve the curricula at BA and MA levels with a special focus on digital first and social media journalism
- Work closely with universities abroad with more established journalism programmes (GB, RoI, US and South Africa) to identify partnership opportunities and benchmark our teaching practice
- Work closely with local, national (UK, RoI) and international media companies to secure work experience, training and employment opportunities for our students and graduates
- Sit on selection and hiring panels for new staff members
- Undertake external consultancies, routed through the university
- Specialisations: multimedia and online/social media journalism (breaking news, features); verification; audio documentary and podcasting; mobile journalism ('MoJo'); SEO, UGC and ethics
- Committee Membership: School Research Ethics Committee; Faculty Digital Learning Team; Queen's Gender Initiative; Queen's Centre for Documentary Research; Faculty's "New Methods for New Media" working group; School's work placement steering group

WHIPPLETREE PERFORMANCE LTD., LONDON (UK)

01/2019 – 06/2019

Media Consultant, Trainer and Online Mentor

- Advised the Mongolian National Broadcaster (MNB) on the design, development and launch of its digital-first, fully online, English language global news channel called "MNB World"
- Consultancy involved online editorial strategy; website ideation and testing; and remote training in 'MoJo' and social media journalism

BBC MEDIA ACTION, LONDON (UK)

09/2014 – Present

Media Consultant, Trainer and Project Manager

- Work on a wide range of contracts pertaining to specific training modules; syllabi drafting; programme design; and project management in countries across the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe
- Specialties include: social media journalism; mobile journalism ('MoJo'); emergency response (natural disaster, conflict, post-conflict, public health crises/epidemics); media training in multimedia, radio and TV; interviewing skills; and news writing
- Deployments include: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Ethiopia, Gambia, North Macedonia, Mali, Myanmar, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia and Zambia

BBC MEDIA ACTION, SKOPIE (NORTH MACEDONIA)

06/2018 – 07/2018

Multimedia and Social Media Consultant, Strategist and Trainer

- Devised strategy to help national TV broadcaster *Alsat-M* migrate from being a legacy television service to becoming a multimedia outfit with a digital-first, social media-aware workflow and editorial culture
- Trained management to integrate a “multimedia mindset” into editorial planning
- Trained reporters and producers on multimedia reporting, producing a given story in various formats for online dissemination

BBC MEDIA ACTION, TUNIS (TUNISIA)

09/2017 – 05/2018

Multimedia and Social Media Editor and Trainer

- Coordinated two digital-first, multimedia, social media-anchored news and current affairs platforms destined for people from 16 to 35 years of age. Deep and extensive use of analytics and SEO on both platforms to inform and shape the evolving, daily editorial agenda
- Trained staff on social media journalism production techniques
- Produced and directed livestreamed, studio-based shows
- “*El Kul*” (“everyone”) targeted young Libyans (both in Libya and those in exile in Tunisia), who weren’t consuming news or information via legacy media, many of whom were in danger of being radicalised by various militia groups. Daily audience: one million people. Managed team of producers and reporters in Tunis and correspondents across Libya. See: <https://www.facebook.com/elkul.libya>
- “*Ija Inbox*” (“come to your inbox”) targeted young Tunisians who weren’t consuming news or information via legacy media. Daily audience: 150,000 people. Managed team of producers and reporters in Tunis and correspondents across Tunisia. See: <https://www.facebook.com/IjaInbox>

INSTITUTE OF WAR AND PEACE REPORTING (IWPR), LONDON (UK)

10/2010 – 11/2012

Journalism Trainer

- Delivered a series of courses aimed at enabling journalists in Mauritania to cover the political sphere more robustly
- Designed and delivered a series of trainings to eight newsrooms across Tunisia within weeks of the fall of former president Ben Ali in early 2011. Trainings focused on creating stories via multiple platforms
- Designed and delivered a comprehensive syllabus on multimedia reporting for Syrian journalists working undercover in pre-war Syria

GLOBAL ENGLISH, HONG KONG

06/2002 – 09/2002

SILC INTERNATIONAL, POITOU-CHARENTES (FRANCE)

02/2002 – 04/2002

ENGLISH SUMMER SA, TARRAGONA (SPAIN)

06/2001 – 09/2001

English Teacher to Chinese, French and Spanish adolescents, respectively

*VOLUNTARY
TEACHING/TRAINING*

CHOSON EXCHANGE (SINGAPORE) & PYONGYANG (NORTH KOREA)

05/2018 – 06/2018

Business Communications Trainer

- Provided training on various aspects of business communication to people starting communally owned businesses in Pyongyang, North Korea. Choson Exchange is a Singapore-based NGO that works to build business skills in North Korea

DANIEL PEARL REPORTING PROJECT, NEW YORK (USA)

01/2007 – 07/2008

Syllabus Writer/Tutor

- Helped build a multimedia syllabus for online use by secondary school students around the world. Also served as a tutor on the project

**JOURNALISM &
MEDIA PRACTICE
EXPERIENCE**

FREELANCE REPORTER AND PRODUCER (all platforms incl. social media/digital formats)

ISLAND OF IRELAND, MIDDLE EAST, EUROPE, ASIA and AFRICA

06/2002 – Present

- File print, video and radio coverage of breaking news and political, economic, cultural, and development features from Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Currently focused on the island of Ireland
- File social media and online content, including SEO-effective articles and online “embed” texts in which my video and audio work is couched
- Specialise as a one-man-band multimedia reporter and as a member of a crew
- Report in the Irish language in addition to English-language reporting
- Was Based in **Beirut, Lebanon** from 2009 to 2012 as a freelance foreign correspondent. Regional coverage included: the Egyptian, Libyan and Tunisian revolutions and the uprising and war in Syria. Extensive use of UGC and associated verification strategies during the Syrian uprising and war, from early 2011 onward

Editorial clients: Agence France Presse (AFPTV), BBC, CBC, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Guardian*, *The Irish Times*, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, *The LA Times*, *National Geographic*, *The New York Times*, NPR, PBS, RTÉ, *TIME magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and others

DOCUMENTARY MAKER (audio, video and mixed-media formats)

ISLAND OF IRELAND, MIDDLE EAST, EUROPE, ASIA AND AFRICA

05/2009 – Present

- 2019: *“All That Is Solid Melts Into Air”*; a mixed-media experimental documentary using pre-recorded sound; live, performed spoken word; and stage work, exploring childhood and social change in modern Ireland. Performed at HearSay International Audio Art Festival and Symposium (Limerick, Ireland) and at Liú Lúnasa Arts Festival (Belfast)
- 2012: *“Democracy Derailed: Egypt’s Unraveled Revolution”*; produced this video documentary for *The Wall Street Journal*
- 2008: *“A Journey Home: Afghanistan Through the Eyes of a Returning Refugee”*, produced this documentary for *The New York Times* and the television section of the AFP
- 2008: *“A Refuge in Ruins: Returning to Nahr al Bared”*; produced this radio documentary on the politics of reconstruction surrounding a Palestinian refugee camp destroyed in a conflict with the Lebanese state
- 2007: *“To Stay or To Go”*; produced this three-part radio documentary on the plight of undocumented Irish people in America. Broadcast on Newstalk radio (Ireland)

FILM DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, SCREENWRITER AND EDITOR

05/2006 – Present

- Wrote, directed, produced & edited three short films, shot respectively in Brussels (*“Un Signe, Un Geste”*, 2012), Beirut (2011) and Paris (2006)
- *“Un Signe, Un Geste”*, a French-language short fiction film, screened at over 30 festivals worldwide; won eight prizes. Broadcast nationally on RTÉ in Sept. 2016

RESEARCH PROJECTS

“ULSTER GAELIC: IT’S YOURS TOO!”

Sept. 2018 – Present

In collaboration with East Belfast Irish language activist Linda Ervine, this project researches how social media and factual animation can help Protestants and Unionists develop a sense of ownership of Irish

“CIVIL RIGHTS, CLIMATE WRONGS”

Feb. 2020 – Present

Exploring how civil rights are affected by climate change in the 16 to 24-year-old age bracket in Northern Ireland. The project, which is run with students, results in factual animations and explores which media platforms are most effective to disseminate these animations through

“PUBLIC COLAB”

Oct. 2019 – Present

An annual collaboration between the Broadcast and Architecture departments at Queen’s University Belfast. “Public CoLab” explores how an ecological crisis in Belfast might affect the city and its residents. Each year’s iteration results in a live performance/exhibition and a publication

“PRODUCING AND TEACHING MEDIA DURING COVID-19: A COMPARATIVE PROJECT (Ireland and South Africa)”

July 2020 – August 2021

Based on mutual visits to each other’s universities and departments, Dr. Franz Krüger (of the University of Witswatersrand, South Africa) and myself are doing a comparative study of how new media and online solutions are changing the practice and teaching of journalism

“RADIO TALK SHOP”

Jan. 2020 – Present

Run with University College Cork and the University of Sunderland (UK), this IRC-funded project seeks to explore the role that community media can play in welcoming asylum communities and changing mainstream media narratives around asylum seekers

“NATAKALLAM: REFUGEE CONNECTIONS”

June 2020 – Present

This project explores effective ways in which to continue telling the refugee story now that it has fallen down the news agenda. With NGO *NaTakallam*, we connect Syrian refugees (living in exile in Iraq, Turkey and Lebanon) with groups of students at Queen’s University Belfast

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

Duncan, D., 2020, “Remote Supervision of Practice-Based Group Work Under Lockdown,” Digital Technology, Lockdown and the Post-Pandemic University Conference, Society for Research into Higher Education’s Digital University Network, London (UK); [*online conference in Aug. 2020*]

Duncan, D., 2020, “Sound Excavations: exploring audio’s unique power to excavate and reconstruct erased, lost and hidden LGBT pasts,” OUTing the Past Conference. Belfast, Northern Ireland

Duncan, D., 2017, “Alternative History as an Apt Cinematic Narrative Form for the Expression of Irish Postcolonial Identity,” Irish Screen Studies Seminar (ISSS). Dublin, Ireland

PEER-REVIEWED
PUBLICATIONS

Duncan, D. 2020, "Social Media as a Teaching Tool in the Post-Pandemic University," *Building the Post-Pandemic University*, [Chapter accepted June 2020; currently under peer review; book to be published in late 2020]

Duncan, D. 2020, "Remote Supervision of Group Practice Projects During a Lockdown: a pedagogical and experiential perspective," *Journalism & Mass Communication Educator* [accepted May 2020]

Duncan, D. 2020, "Finding and Excavating Forgotten Pasts with Sound," *The Conversation* [due to be published August 2020]

OTHER PUBLICATIONS
& EVENTS

2020 Duncan, D. & Flood, N., 2020, *Public CoLab 2020: Exploring the Impact of the Ecological Crisis in Belfast* [monograph]

2012 "Voluntary Exile" group exhibition. Ashkal Alwan Gallery, Beirut (Lebanon). Contributed a series of photojournalistic prints examining the daily lives of Syrian refugee men, newly arrived to Beirut

2012 Beirut Irish Film Festival (Lebanon): Director/curator of this festival showcasing fifteen features and over twenty shorts

2005 – 2006 *Æ Magazine* (Paris, France): Founder and editor of this global quarterly arts magazine, distributed to specialist stores in twenty countries

INVITED
LECTURES/ESTEEM

2020 Masterclass Lecture: "Strategies for better online teaching of practice modules." Delivered at the invitation of the Faculty of Arts Humanities & Social Sciences, Queen's University Belfast

2020 Masterclass Lecture: "Using social media and online strategies for better online teaching." Delivered at the invitation of the School of Arts, English and Languages, Queen's University Belfast

2019 Workshop: Guest lectured a production workshop for the Widening Participation Unit of Queen's University Belfast

2018/19 Lecture: "Getting Started in the Media"
Discussion Moderation: live, public discussion with documentary director Sinéad O'Shea
Lecture and moderation occurred at Still Voices Film Festival (Ireland)

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA, NORWICH (UK), PhD

Drawing on my own Practice-as-Research (PaR) in the Middle East and on the island of Ireland, my PhD work analyses how societal disruption (such as conflict) and related media disruptions (such as social media) inflect and change the form and delivery of media narratives

PhD due to be completed: September 2021

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND, PGCHET

GRADE: PASS (PASS/FAIL SYSTEM)

Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Teaching (PGCHET),

INSAS [National Film School of Belgium], BRUSSELS, MA Cinema & Filmmaking

2012 – 2014, GRADE: 16/20 (equivalent of a 1st)

Specialisation: directing, screenwriting, producing

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, MA Journalism & Politics

2007 – 2008, GRADE: PASS (PASS/FAIL SYSTEM)

Specialisation: Middle East politics

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, MSc Journalism

2006 – 2007, GRADE: PASS (PASS/FAIL SYSTEM)

Specialisation: multimedia journalism

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, IRELAND, BA English Studies

1998 – 2002, GRADE: II.1

Included one year on Erasmus exchange to Université de Paris VII, France

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, NEW JERSEY (USA), TEFL Certificate

2000, GRADE: PASS (PASS/FAIL SYSTEM)

Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)

COURSES

THE PODCAST STUDIOS/HEADSTUFF, DUBLIN (IRELAND) – JUNE & JULY 2020

Podcasting course lasting two months covering: ideation, production, post-production, distribution and marketing

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE TRAINING OF JOURNALISTS (NCTJ), LONDON (UK) – OCT. 2019

Specialised, applied course on media law, ethics and regulation

TG4/GRÉASÁN NA MEÁN, GALWAY (IRELAND) – APRIL 2018

Intensive training course on Mobile Journalism ('MoJo') production; led by Glen Mulcahy and Seán Mac an tSíthigh

BBC/TOR INTERNATIONAL, LONDON (UK) – JAN. 2016

Hostile Environments and First Aid Training (HEFAT)

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE, VERMONT (USA) – SUMMER 2012

Intensive summer residential course in classical Arabic. Grade: A

PROFESSIONAL
MEMBERSHIPS

National Union of Journalists (NUJ)
Online News Association
International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)
Frontline Freelance Register (FFR)

FUNDING & AWARDS

ACADEMIC

QUB ENGAGED RESEARCH SEED FUND – JULY 2020

Awarded GBP£2,500 as PI for the “Ulster Gaelic, It’s Yours Too!” project

NORTHERN IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (NIHRC) – MAR. 2020

Awarded GBP£10,000 as PI on a funding bid to the NIHRC for the “Civil Rights, Climate Wrongs” project

AEL STAFF RESEARCH FUND – MARCH 2020

Awarded GBP£480 for the purposes of specialised training for research

QUB, NI EXECUTIVE, ESMÉ MITCHELL, ENKALON FOUNDATIONS – FEB. 2020

As PI on the “Ulster Gaelic: It’s Yours too!” project, I’ve raised a combined total £14,000 in bids to funds from Queen’s University Belfast, Northern Ireland Executive, Esmé Mitchell Trust and the Enkalon Foundation

QUB GREEN FUND – JAN. 2020

Awarded GBP£1,500 as PI for the “Listen. Amplify.” project

QUB TEACHING EXCELLENCE – DEC. 2019

Nominated by students & shortlisted by School for this prestigious award

ACADEMIC STAFF CONFERENCE FUND (ASCF) – FEB. 2019

Awarded GBP£400 to undertake practice as research (PaR) and present the outcome at the *HearSay International Audio Festival and Symposium*

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE KATHRYN DAVIS PEACE FELLOWSHIP– JULY 2012

Full Scholarship to study Arabic at Middlebury College’s immersive residential language programme on its campus in Vermont (USA)

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY’S BOLLINGER PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWSHIP – 2007/08

Fellowship covering full tuition and maintenance while attending Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY’S ARTHUR HARRIS AWARD FOR BEST MA THESIS – 2007/08

In recognition of my thesis on the politics of reconstructing a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon

EINHORN FAMILY TRUST RESEARCH FUND – 2007

Awarded funding to travel to Lebanon to do thesis field research

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY’S HENRY N. TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIP – 2006/07

Scholarship to cover tuition at Columbia University’s Journalism School

FUNDING & AWARDS

NON-ACADEMIC

VARIOUS FILMMAKING AWARDS FOR THE SHORT FILM “UN SIGNE, UN GESTE” – 2014 to 2018

Best Script (Mumbai Shorts Film Festival, India); Outstanding Excellence in Direction (Depth of Field International Film Festival, USA); Best Student Film (Asolo Art Film Festival, Italy)

RORY PECK TRUST BURSARY – 2010

Recipient of funding to travel and attend a HEFAT training in England

NATIONAL PRESS FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP (US) – 2010

Funding to travel to and report on the AIDS Vaccine Summit in Atlanta

NATIONAL PRESS FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP (US) – 2010

Funding to travel to and report on the World AIDS Summit in Vienna

THE INVESTIGATIVE FUND, THE NATION INSTITUTE (NEW YORK, US) – 2009

Funding to travel to and investigate Maoist insurgency movements in Bhutan and Nepal

NEWS21 MULTIMEDIA FELLOWSHIP, CARNEGIE & KNIGHT FOUNDATIONS (US) – 2008

A fellow on this digital-first, multimedia storytelling project that centred around immigration prior to the 2008 presidential elections in the US

THE PULITZER CENTER ON CRISIS REPORTING (TRAVEL GRANT) – 2008

Funding to travel to and report on disability in Afghanistan

THE PULITZER CENTER ON CRISIS REPORTING (TRAVEL GRANT) – 2007

Funding to travel to and report on Palestinian issues in Lebanon
