

## Contact

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## Top Skills

Editing  
Journalism  
Blogging

## Languages

French

## Honors-Awards

PPI Radio Awards 2014, Silver  
Award in specialist speech  
programming category

PPI Radio Awards, 2015, short-listed  
in specialist speech programming  
category

IMRO Radio Awards, 2017, short-  
listed in the specialist speech  
category

## Publications

How Irish Scientists Changed the  
World

# Seán Duke

Journalist, Broadcaster & Podcaster  
Ireland

## Summary

### SOME CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

Editor and co-founder of DKS Publishing (2003-2008).

Author, How Irish Scientists Changed the World (Londubh, 2013).

Regular Contributor, The Irish Times (Science, Environment,  
Agriculture) (2017 - present).

Co-Founder of Science Spin, Ireland's first popular science  
magazine (2003 - 2012).

Shortlist nominee for Ireland's national radio awards in 2014, 2015,  
and 2017 under the specialist speech programming category (Silver  
award in 2014).

Editor of Horizon, online flagship publication of European  
Commission.

Co-Presenter/Creator/Producer of 'What's it all About?' a series of  
four, one-hour programmes broadcast on (RTE Radio 1, 2014).

Creator and Editor of the 'Science Spinning' Blog (2009 - Present).  
'Ireland' contributor to Science (AAAS), one of the world's leading  
research magazines.

A regular contributor to The Sunday Times (1998 - 2019).

Co-Presenter of 'Life Matters' a 13-part documentary series on RTE  
Radio 1 (2015).

Editor of Technology Ireland, the flagship publication of Enterprise  
Ireland (2000-2005).

Presenter of science slots on TV3's Ireland AM (2008-2010) and  
RTE's The Daily Show (2010).

Regular Contributor to The Morning Show with Declan Meehan on  
East Coast FM (2012 - Present)

Consultant/Researcher on RTE's 'The Investigators' science series  
(2008-2009).

Creator and Presenter of Science Spinning, a weekly popular  
science show on 103.2 Dublin City FM (2009-2012).

Senior Journalist, Liffey Champion, Leixlip (1998 - 2000).

### Specialties:

Writing, Editing & Sub-Editing.  
Management and Leadership.  
Project Management of New Ventures.  
Broadcasting, both TV and Radio.  
Strategic Planning.  
Innovative Use of Social Media.  
Communication Training for Scientists.  
Proofreading & Fact-Checking.  
Teaching & Training.

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## Experience

### The Irish Times

Freelance Journalist

August 2017 - Present (4 years 9 months)

A regular contributor to the science and innovation page. I write news stories covering the latest developments in science, health, the environment, space, energy, food, and agriculture.

I also contribute Book Reviews; primarily science and nature-themed titles.

### Irish Independent

Freelance Journalist

October 2021 - Present (7 months)

Dublin, County Dublin, Ireland

I write news, opinion and features on the subject of science, research and health.

### University College Dublin

Podcast Host

January 2021 - Present (1 year 4 months)

Dublin, County Dublin, Ireland

'AgriFood Matters' is a podcast from the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science featuring leading academic staff at UCD in the area of Agriculture, Food Science and Human Nutrition.

The content for the podcast is researched, scripted, presented, and produced by myself.

The podcast examines topical issues such as sustainability, biodiversity, inclusion, food and health, innovation, crop sciences, agricultural economics and humanitarian action.

### Science Magazine

Freelance Journalist

October 1998 - Present (23 years 7 months)

Contribute news and science policy pieces for ScienceInsider.

### Skillnet Ireland

Podcast Host

January 2021 - Present (1 year 4 months)

Dublin, County Dublin, Ireland

'Ireland's Place in Space' is a podcast supported by Space Industry Skillnet that celebrates the growing role of Ireland and Irish people out on the final frontier.

The content for the podcast is scripted, presented and produced by myself.

This podcast is supported by Space Industry Skillnet

### RTÉ - Raidió Teilifís Éireann

6 years 10 months

Contributor to Drivetime on RTE Radio 1

May 2017 - Present (5 years)

Ireland

Freelance reporter covering science, the environment and technology

Contributor Today with Sean O'Rourke

July 2015 - April 2017 (1 year 10 months)

Science, medical science and technology are changing our world, and there are some incredible changes coming down the line.

In this regular slot on RTE Radio 1's Today with Sean O'Rourke I aim to explain developments in science and technology using language that everyone can understand.

### East Coast FM

12 years 9 months

Broadcast Journalist

August 2009 - Present (12 years 9 months)

Wicklow

I discuss some of the big science, health, environment and technology stories making the news each week with presenter Declan Meehan.

My goal is to explain the importance of these science stories in a way that is engaging, informative, and where possible - entertaining - to a general listenership.

Radio Host

November 2016 - January 2017 (3 months)

The Irish Scientists series, supported by the BAI and broadcast on East Coast FM was presented by myself, and co-written and co-produced by Colette Kinsella, Red Hare Media.

The series of six programmes, feature the extraordinary lives and achievements of six of Ireland's greatest ever scientists.

John Philip Holland - the 'father' of the modern submarine

ETS Walton - the atom splitter and Nobel laureate

Charles Parsons - inventor of the steam turbine engine

Jocelyn Bell Burnell - discovered 'pulsars'

William Rowan Hamilton - created equations to land spacecraft

Robert Mallett - proved what causes earthquakes

Speaking Science

Communication Trainer

August 2008 - Present (13 years 9 months)

Dublin

I am the Creator of Speaking Science, a science communication initiative aimed at helping scientists at all stages of their careers, whether in academia or industry, to better communicate with a number of key audiences, and advance their career prospects.

I have worked with groups of PhDs, post-docs and senior researchers based at TCD, UCD, NUI Maynooth, Dublin City University, NUI Galway and UCC. I have also worked with high technology start ups at Nova UCD and the Invent centre at DCU.

I have also provided science communication training for a number of state bodies, including the EPA and the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland.

### Teagasc

#### Podcast Host

August 2019 - February 2021 (1 year 7 months)

'The Research Field' is Teagasc's monthly research podcast for everyone interested in agriculture, crops, the environment, food, forestry and rural development research in Ireland.

The podcast gets out and about around Ireland, talking to researchers in their various fields.

### The Sunday Times

#### Freelance Journalist

September 1998 - January 2019 (20 years 5 months)

Dublin

I contributed news, features and opinion pieces on science, climate, health, and energy.

### Irish Research Council

#### Podcast Host

April 2018 - December 2018 (9 months)

Ireland

'Cool Science and Curious Minds' was a weekly podcast supported by the Irish Research Council for curious people everywhere. I covered fascinating research happening in Ireland across the sciences, as well as the humanities. We aim to inform and entertain our audiences, and to showcase the quality of research in Ireland whether that is in archaeology, astronomy or architecture. The podcast is supported with funding from the Irish Research Council, and recorded at the studios of East Coast FM in Bray.

### The Medical Independent

#### Clinical Editor

November 2016 - August 2017 (10 months)

Dublin

Covering maternity leave. I was involved in editorial planning, commissioning, editing and writing clinical articles.

### National Children's Research Centre

#### Communication Expert

November 2015 - September 2016 (11 months)

Dublin

My role was to explain and promote the life-impacting research taking place at the National Children's Research Centre for a range of audiences, both at home and overseas.

RTE

Radio Presenter

November 2014 - April 2015 (6 months)

RTE Radio 1

Co-presenter and Co-Producer for a 13-part series for RTE Radio 1 entitled Life Matters.

The series, co-presented with co-produced with Colette Kinsella, explored and questioned some of the moral values that underpin our society.

The topics explored include disability, nationalism, assisted reproduction, elderly care, genetic screening, the status of animals in society and the origins of religion.

Science Spin Magazine

Magazine Editor

April 2003 - 2015 (12 years)

Dublin

I was Editor and Co-Founder of Science Spin Magazine ([www.sciencespin.com](http://www.sciencespin.com)). This was Ireland's first and only popular science magazine, published six times per year.

I was responsible for the management of a team of 16 freelance journalists, input into magazine design, content planning and commissioning, and key business decisions.

RTE Radio 1

Radio Presenter

October 2013 - May 2014 (8 months)

Dublin

Co-Presenter and Co Producer of this PPI Award winning show 'What's it All About?' along with Colette Kinsella; a series of four one-hour science programmes broadcast on RTE Radio 1.

The programmes included 'Life, Death and Beyond', 'The Search for ET' and 'The Brain'.

## Londubh Books

### Author

December 2011 - November 2013 (2 years)

18 Casimir Avenue, Harold's Cross, Dublin 6

I am the author of 'How Irish Scientists Changed the World'. This tells the story of 17 scientists - Irish born or with strong Irish connections, whose work changed the world.

This book was released on the 7th November 2013 with a launch in Dublin's Hodges Figgis.

It is written in a popular style and the goal is to bring Ireland's greatest scientists to life as people, describing their lives and personalities, as well as their remarkable scientific achievements.

The scientists covered in the book include four Nobel laureates: Ernest Walton, the atom splitter; Guglielmo Marconi, the father of radio (his mother was Irish); Maurice Wilkins, who played a key role in uncovering the DNA double helix (his parents were Dubliners); and Erwin Schrodinger, the naturalised Irish citizen, and central figure in the development of the theory of quantum mechanics.

## The Innovation Academy, UCD

### Workshop Creator/Facilitator

March 2010 - October 2013 (3 years 8 months)

Dublin

I designed and facilitated workshops at the Academy. These workshops were aimed at doctoral candidates interested in starting a business or new enterprise.

The workshops were designed to engage the students in real world tasks and to help them develop the type of skills, including critical communication skills, required to establish a start-up.

I was involved with the Academy during its start-up phase, and worked closely with management based at UCD and TCD.

### ICF Mostra

Editor In Chief,

June 2012 - December 2012 (7 months)

Brussels Area, Belgium

Responsible for the overall editorial strategy and planning for Horizon, the European Commission science e-magazine.

I managed a team of international expert contributors based in several European countries, and worked closely, and regularly, with EU officials at DG Research on all aspects of the publication.

Co-ordinated the production process between Dublin and Brussels.

Developed new editorial ideas working with an in-house team as well as international expert contributors.

Commissioned articles and kept regular track of progress.

Sub-edited, fact-checked, and gave final approval on all material before publication online.

Developed a comprehensive multimedia plan to accompany, and compliment text for articles.

Identified the daily and weekly work priorities for in-house staff.

### 103.2 Dublin City FM

Radio Presenter

September 2009 - September 2012 (3 years 1 month)

Dublin

I was the creator, co-producer and presenter of this weekly science show on 103.2 Dublin City FM.

The goal was to explain scientific concepts in a way everyone can grasp and to inform people about key developments happening in research in Ireland and around the world.

### TV3 Television Ireland

Broadcast Journalist

February 2008 - September 2010 (2 years 8 months)

I wrote the scripts and sourced the supporting materials for a regular monthly science slot which appeared on Ireland AM, the TV3 flagship breakfast morning television show.

## Duke Kennedy Sweetman (DKS)

Editor

2003 - 2008 (5 years)

Dublin

DKS was an independent, small publishing company co-founded by myself, Tom Kennedy and Mary Sweetman.

My role included commissioning, editing, sourcing artwork, liaising with authors, production management, marketing and publicity.

The titles I worked on included:

Colour, by Tom Kennedy and Margaret Franklin

The Exemption, by Vera Hajnal

The Sensational Brain, by Dr Veronica Miller

Rock Around Ireland, by Peadar McArdle

St Vincent's Hospital Fairview, by Aidan Collins

Gold Frenzy, by Peadar McArdle

## Enterprise Ireland

4 years 10 months

Editor

September 2003 - May 2005 (1 year 9 months)

Dublin

As Editor of Technology Ireland, the flagship technology and science publication of Enterprise Ireland, I was responsible for managing a large team of freelance writers, managing all web content, and planning future content.

It was also my responsibility to develop business strategy with the business and marketing team, sub-editing articles, sourcing images, developing layout ideas with the graphic designer, writing articles, and dealing with senior management within the Enterprise Ireland organisation.

This was a challenging role, and one, which I combined with establishing a new publication, Science Spin.

Joint Editor

August 2000 - September 2003 (3 years 2 months)

Dublin

As Joint Editor of Technology Ireland, the flagship publication for Enterprise Ireland, I was responsible for the establishment of its first web presence at <http://www.technologyireland.ie>.

Following on from that I was responsible for the management of content, as well as developing ideas for revenue streams.

In addition, for the print magazine, I was responsible for commissioning articles, sub-editing material, managing a large team of freelancers, developing marketing and general business strategies, and providing a strategic direction for the publication. At this time I worked closely with joint-editor Mary Sweetman.

## Topic Newspapers

### Senior Journalist

May 1998 - June 2000 (2 years 2 months)

Kildare

I covered all kinds of stories working as part of a small team on this busy local newspaper. Everything from sports, to business, politics, and funerals - I did it all.

I also was the first journalist at the Champion to report in detail about the research taking place at local university, NUI Maynooth. I also set up a regular science page covering NUIM research news.

## Scoil Dara Kilcock, Co. Kildare

### Secondary School Teacher

March 1993 - May 1998 (5 years 3 months)

Kildare

As a part-time teacher, I taught Biology to Honours Leaving Certificate Level, and Mathematics and Science to Junior Certificate level. I was also a tutor for 1st year.

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## Education

### New York University

MA, Science, Health & Environmental Reporting · (1991 - 1993)

### University College Dublin

BSc, Geology, Botany, Zoology · (1983 - 1987)

University College Dublin

H.Dip Education (Honours), Biology, History · (1995 - 1996)

Trinity College Dublin

BA, History · (1987 - 1991)

Blackrock College

Leaving Certificate · (1979 - 1983)