

## SciCOMM 2016 - Speakers



**Shane Bergin**

**Trinity College Dublin, Ireland**

Dr Shane Bergin received his BA Mod (First Class) in Advanced Materials from Trinity College Dublin in 2003 and then went on to complete his PhD in 2007 with the School of Physics at Trinity College on the "Exfoliation of Single Walled Carbon Nanotubes." Between 2009 and 2012 he worked at the Imperial College London as a Marie Curie IEF Fellow in the Department of Chemistry. He returned to Trinity College Dublin in October of 2012 to take up a position as a Senior Research Fellow in the School of Physics and is currently funded through Science Foundation Ireland on the "Starting Investigator Research Grant (SIRG)" programme.



**Pallab Ghosh**

**Science Correspondent, BBC News, United Kingdom**

Pallab Ghosh is a science correspondent for BBC News. He reports on developments in science, technology, medicine and environment. He began his career in 1984 at the British Electronics and Computer Press before joining New Scientist as the magazine's Science News Editor. Pallab joined BBC News in 1989, where he went on to become a Senior Producer on BBC Radio 4's Today Programme. He is a former Chair of the Association of British Science Writers and past-President of the World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ). He was named Science Journalist of the Year last year in the Press Gazette British Journalism Awards. He has also won the Media Natura Environment Award, a Hugo Award and has been named BT Technology Journalist of the Year.



**Johannes-Geert Hagmann**

**Deutsches Museum, Germany**

Johannes-Geert Hagmann is head of the curatorial department for technology at the Deutsches Museum. Being in charge of museum collaborations, he coordinates national and international contacts with other institutions. Holding a PhD in physics, he is currently working on new exhibitions concepts and leads a DFG project to digitize the founding collection of the Deutsches Museum.



## **Tasos Kounoudes**

### **Project Coordinator, CEO at SignalGeneriX**

Founder and CEO of SignalGeneriX with more than fifteen years of industrial experience in the development of innovative products in the area of Telecommunications and Digital Signal Processing. He has been involved in the preparation and successful implementation of more than forty competitive National and European research and innovation projects with total budget of approximately 70M€. He is actively participating in various National and European bodies in his field of expertise promoting industrial research, innovation and entrepreneurship. Dr. Kounoudes is the co-author of European patents and has published more than 50 papers in international journals, book chapters and proceedings of international conferences.



## **Kevin Mitchell**

### **Trinity College Dublin, Ireland**

Kevin Mitchell is an Associate Professor in the Smurfit Institute of Genetics in Trinity College Dublin and a member of the Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience. His interests are in understanding the genetic program specifying the wiring of the brain and its relevance to variation in human faculties, especially to psychiatric and neurological disease. He is a graduate of the Genetics Department, Trinity College Dublin (B.A., Mod. 1991) and received his Ph.D. in Neurobiology from the University of California at Berkeley (1997). He did postdoctoral research at the University of California, San Francisco and Stanford University, using molecular genetics to study neural development in the mouse. Since 2002 he has been on the faculty at Trinity College Dublin and was elected to Fellowship of Trinity College in 2009. He is active on Twitter (@WiringtheBrain), writes a blog on genetics and neuroscience (<http://www.wiringthebrain.com>), and is author of the upcoming popular science book "Born That Way" (Princeton, 2017).



## **Alexandra Ruete**

**Communication Officer, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation, Belgium**

Alexandra Ruete is a convinced European and passionate about communication. German national but having lived abroad most of her life (USA, India, France, Poland, UK and Belgium), she was raised speaking 3 languages.

She has a Master's Degree in Business Administration and worked in her early days in Public Relations, Marketing Communication and Event-Management. Since moving to Brussels, twenty years ago, she has worked in organisations close to the European Commission and notably DG Research & Innovation which she joined in 2003. In 2008 she became Communication Officer in charge of two main portfolios: Web-Communication and Horizon 2020 Science Communication which she has campaigned for since day one.



## **David Shukman**

**Science Editor, BBC, United Kingdom**

Twenty five years ago David visited the secret lab at Los Alamos that created the first nuclear bomb and he's been fascinated by science and scientists ever since. His reports have taken him as far afield as the Antarctic ice-sheet, the Amazon rainforest and the depths of the Gulf of Mexico. Since joining the BBC in 1983, David has covered Northern Ireland, defence, Europe and world affairs. He is the author of three

books including *An Iceberg as Big as Manhattan*, an account of his coverage of research into environmental change. Recent stories include ESA's Rosetta mission to a comet and the Zika crisis in Brazil. His favourite memories include reporting from East Berlin during the fall of the Wall and exploring the tunnels of the Large Hadron Collider on a bike.



## **Rhonda Smith**

**Moderator, Minerva Communication, United Kingdom**

Founder Director & Team Leader, experienced strategist and practitioner with particular expertise in reputation, crisis & issues management including media and as a trainer and mentor across academia in Europe, commerce, not-for-profit and charitable sectors



### **Agata Stasiak**

**Communication Officer, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation, Belgium**

Agata Stasiak graduated from Warsaw School of Economics and holds MAs in EU public administration as well in Marketing and Management. Before joining European Commission in 2003, she worked for the Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics. Since 2011, she has been working in the Communication Unit of DG Research and Innovation.



### **Derrick Williams**

**Freelance journalist for Deutsche Welle, Germany**

He is a seasoned science and healthcare correspondent in Deutsche Welle's English Television Service, appearing regularly on its news programs to explain the background of breaking stories in fields from nuclear physics to climate change to genetic engineering. A former host for DW's weekly sci-tech show "Tomorrow Today", he has also produced hundreds of science and healthcare programs in the last decade and a half. Derrick is additionally the Co-Editor of European Biotechnology News magazine, as well as the Communications Manager for the European Biotechnology Network. Over the years, he has worked extensively with many of Germany's major research institutions and initiatives – among them the Helmholtz Association Research Centers, the Max Planck Society and the World Health Summit – on a wide variety of English-language media projects, films and publications.