

DLM Forum Triennial Meeting

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Keynote speakers

Tuesday, 3 November

Keynote: The Journey Towards Ireland's First Digital Census



Diarmuid Reidy, Senior Statistician, Central Statistics Office

Keynote summary

The presentation will explore the transformation journey towards Ireland's first digital Census, focusing not only on the technology but on the governance, accountability, operational and programme-management structures required to deliver a transformation of this scale.

Census 2027 marks a fundamental transformation in the way the Census is delivered, as Ireland moves to its first digital Census. The transformation brings together new technology, processes, field operations and respondent services while maintaining the integrity of a national statistical operation of unprecedented scale. A central element of this work has been developing the accountability, transparency and governance arrangements required to manage such a complex transformation. This includes coordinating multiple interconnected workstreams, managing dependencies and maintaining a clear focus on delivery across the wider programme. The transformation also involves managing a significant network of external partners and technology providers, each contributing to different elements of the technical solution.

Biography

Diarmuid Reidy is a Senior Statistician with Ireland's Central Statistics Office (CSO), where he has worked since 1999. Over the course of his career, he has worked across a number of areas of official statistics, including International Accounts and National Accounts. He also spent eight years on secondment to the Department of Education, where he led the Statistics Unit.

Diarmuid has extensive experience in the design, management and delivery of large-scale statistical operations. Within the Census programme, his responsibilities span Census Geography, the creation and management of the Address Register, field designation, statistical insights and operational support, as well as the logistical operations required to deliver the Census, including the distribution of paper forms.

He oversees the Office of Field Coordination and Engagement and has responsibility for key elements of the Census digital infrastructure, including the mobile field application and the Citizen Respondent Portal. He also plays a leading role in the planning and delivery of the live Census operation, supporting the collection of information from more than 2.3 million households and communal establishments across Ireland.

Diarmuid has been centrally involved in designing and leading the transformation towards Census 2027. Diarmuid's experience combines official statistics, operational delivery, digital transformation, programme governance, field operations and large-scale data collection.

Wednesday, 4 November

Keynote: Cultural Memory between Human and AI: From Presentation to Interpretation



Sun Park, University College Dublin, Ad Astra Fellow / Assistant Professor in AI and Digital Cultural Heritage

Keynote Summary

Digital transformation in memory institutions has largely focused on presentation: digitising collections, describing them and making them available online. AI is now shifting this focus toward interpretation. Through automated transcription, metadata generation and conversational search, AI systems no longer simply display the past but actively summarise, classify and explain it.

This talk examines what happens to cultural memory when interpretation is increasingly shared with AI systems, and how this shift reshapes the content and the conduits of cultural memory. Rather than framing AI as a replacement for human expertise, the keynote speech proposes collaborative models in which human judgement and AI capability together shape how the past is understood and passed on. It concludes by outlining the policy frameworks needed to support such collaboration.

Biography

Dr Sun Park is Ad Astra Fellow/Assistant Professor in AI and Digital Cultural Heritage in the School of Information and Communication Studies at University College Dublin. She specialises in international cultural policy, UNESCO heritage policy, AI in cultural policy, Human-AI Interaction and AI practices as heritage. She has published and taught on explainable AI for the cultural field, human and AI autonomy in the arts and AI practices as forms of future heritage. Before joining UCD, Sun was Lecturer in Creative and Cultural Industries of the University of Manchester and Module Convenor of the Centre for Cultural and Media Policy Studies of the University of Warwick in the UK. She has worked at UNESCO, the Korean National Commission for UNESCO and Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding under the auspices of UNESCO.