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FADE Event explores the digital future of arts festivals

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FADE Event explores the digital future of arts festivals

Grangegorman, Dublin - On September 14th, stakeholders from Dublin's festival community, including representatives from the Arts Council, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Dublin City Arts Office, converged at the East Quad, Technological University Dublin's City Campus at Grangegorman, for a public discussion on festivals and digital practices.

Festivals, Audiences and the Digital Experience (FADE), named after an ongoing research project of the same name, explored the intersection of creativity, technology, and community at the heart of festival making in Dublin. It also formed part of the 'Revealing Grangegorman' series, a programme organized by TU Dublin to celebrate the campus and its infrastructural growth during the pandemic.

The event commenced with an introduction by [Dr. Brian Vaughan](#) (Senior Lecturer; Founder/Director of the Virtual Interaction Research Lab) and Co-Principal Investigator on the FADE project. Dr. Vaughan gave context to the research project and the wider '[Revealing Grangegorman](#)' series and welcomed attendees to The Black Box theatre which is located in the East Quad, the new cultural hub of Grangegorman.

Following Dr. Brian Vaughan's introduction, Dr. Enya Moore (Postdoctoral Researcher), presented initial findings from the ongoing [FADE project](#), an initiative that delves into the implications of the digital age for arts festivals in Ireland. It investigates their readiness to harness the potential of digital technologies for cultural production and dissemination. The project is funded by the [Irish Research Council's Coalesce scheme](#). In her presentation, Moore described what the research project has achieved so far, shared initial findings from FADE's national survey, and described anticipated future outputs.

While Moore demonstrated a broad research project, the next speaker, Aisling Murray of [Beta Festival](#) gave insight into Ireland's first art and technology festival which launches in Dublin on 2 November. Murray, Beta's Founder and Creative Director, explained the festival's innovative approach, emphasizing how it blends tech and digital literacy with a focus on the impact of emerging technologies on society. Beta Festival, which runs for 3 days in venues across Dublin 8, encompasses a diverse and energetic programme of events, exhibitions, and talks.

Following Murray's talk, local arts festivals took centre stage for a Community Notice Board. Sheila Ahern from [Phizzfest](#), Louise Keegan from [Stoneybatter Festival](#), and Adam Kelly from [The Works Festival](#) shared insights about their respective community-based festivals. They emphasized the importance of community engagement and the arts in their events and explored some of the challenges and opportunities posed by the digital turn for small-scale community run festivals.

The event ended with a panel discussion moderated by Senior Lecturer Dr. Bernadette Quinn, Co-Principal investigator on the FADE project. The panel comprised Karl Wallace (Head of Festivals, [Arts Council](#)); Alison Yates ([Red Line Book Festival](#)); Aisling O Gorman ([The Ark](#)); and Sinead Connolly, ([Dublin City Arts Office](#)). Each panellist provided valuable insights into their respective festivals and the role of the arts in Dublin's cultural landscape.

Altogether, the FADE event served as a platform for dialogue and collaboration, shedding light on the digital future of Dublin's festivals and the dynamic interplay between technology, creativity, and community in the festival-making process. It highlighted the resilience and adaptability of Dublin's festival community in the face of a rapidly changing digital landscape.

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Immram performing at the Rock of Cashel during Cashel Arts Festival 2022

Register here



Festivals, Audiences & the Digital Experience

For arts festival makers, researchers & stakeholders
Presentations | Panel Discussion | Networking
Black Box Theatre, East Quad,
Technological University Dublin, Grangegorman Campus
4-6PM, Thursday 14 September
Free event - All welcome.

FADE
Festivals, Audiences & the Digital Experience



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