

DR SHERRA MURPHY, LECTURER, IADT DUN LAOGHAIRE

Professional Biography

Sherra Murphy has been a lecturer at IADT since 2004, teaching Critical and Cultural Studies in the Faculty of Film, Art, and Creative Technologies. She is Co-Chair of the Animation programme, and a member of the Programme Validation Committee. This year she led a team that secured a DELTA award for innovation in teaching and learning, and aided in negotiating an international partnership with Sheridan College in Toronto. Her PhD (2015) was on the cultural history of the Natural History Museum, and she is in discussions with a publisher on the resulting book. She has a number of publications and conference papers from that research. She is a member of IAPH, ACIS, SSNCI, and the SHNH. In the late 1990s she was assistant director of the education centre at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.

Personal Statement

My professional roles have given me skills that would be useful to the IMA. Strategic planning, governance, and attention to trends that influence the cultural sectors are urgent concerns at IADT, where I have contributed to initiatives that will produce tangible benefits in the next five years. The demanding nature of my roles at IADT has given me strong organisational skills, the capacity for leadership, and healthy 'soft' skills that are increasingly important in a changeable sector. My teaching centres around visual and material culture, which I pursue from an interdisciplinary perspective that demands flexible thinking and a wide knowledge base. My own research work expresses historical issues in the development of museums in Ireland, and argues for the importance of collections as a national resource. A previous background in museums and museum studies provides me with a practical and theoretical grounding in the ongoing issues of access, participation, representation, and preservation that are the mission of museums and collections.