

Seán Ó Siochrú



Seán Ó Siochrú is an advocate for communication rights, digital justice, and democratic media ecosystems. With decades of experience as an organiser, researcher, and policy advisor, he contributes to global and local debates on equitable access to information, media democratisation and civil society participation in governance.

He played a central role in the [Communication Rights in the Information Society](#) (CRIS) campaign, mobilising civil society during the UN [World Summit on the Information Society](#) (WSIS, 2003–2005). As co-founder and spokesperson, he lobbied at UN PrepComs, organised parallel events, and helped to draft key documents, ultimately addressing the [WSIS Summit](#) on behalf of global civil society in 2003. CRIS pioneered new modes of civil society engagement at the UN. Extending his advocacy since then into the digital era, he is a founder member of the [JustNet Coalition](#) and the [Global Digital Justice Forum](#).

In the mid-1990s, he was Secretary General of the McBride Round Table on Communication, and co-founder the Platform on Democratisation of Communication, both laying the groundwork for later campaigns.

In his native Ireland, Seán is a leading figure in the community media sector. He was founding Chairperson of *Community Media Network* in the 1990s, successfully lobbying for recognition of the community television sector; Chair of [Dublin Community Television](#) for its first five years until 2009, where he also produced and presented programmes. He continues to contribute, as an advocate and expert in the sector.

He published extensively throughout his career, including: [Global Media Governance: A Beginners Guide](#) (with B. Girard and A. Mahan: Rowman & Littlefield); [Assessing Communication Rights: A Handbook \(CRIS Campaign\)](#); [Broadcasting, Voice and Accountability: A Public Interest Approach to Policy, Law and Regulation](#) (Co-author: World Bank Institute & University of Michigan Press) and [Communication Rights in the Information Society](#) (editor, with B. Girard: UNRISD); and in numerous articles, books chapters and invited contributions. He is a key speaker and contributor to many events and conferences.

His professional career is with [Nexus Research Cooperative](#), co-founded in 1990 with like-minded researchers. It has taken him to over 70 countries, completing programme design, feasibility studies, consultation, support and, especially, evaluations. Beyond communication and media issues, his work with Nexus (especially in Ireland) covers a range of social themes, spanning education, homelessness, marginalised communities, and drug dependence, working with community organisations, NGOs and public entities. He is a policy advisor to successive media regulators in Ireland on community media issues. Internationally, clients include many UN agencies at the highest level (especially UNDP, UNESCO and UNESCAP) and international NGOs. He maintains a strong focus on the Asia Pacific region, has worked extensively in Africa, and continues activities in Europe and Ireland.

Other recent publications:

- Co-author (with Clemencia Rodriguez and Parminder Jeet Singh) *Taking a Progressive and Decolonial Approach to Digital Ecosystems*: WACC (2025). See original in <https://waccglobal.org/an-invitation-to-consider-a-progressive-and-decolonial-civil-society-agenda-for-wsis20/>
- Opinion Piece (2024): A 'How-To' Guide to Transforming the Media and Information Ecosystem. *Bot Populi*. 17 Dec 2024. <https://botpopuli.net/a-how-to-guide-to-transforming-the-media-and-information-ecosystem/>
- Lead Author with Anita Gurusurthy (2024), *Digital platforms versus democratic political discourse: Challenges and the way forward*. *Media Development* 2024/01 <https://waccglobal.org/digital-platforms-versus-democratic-political-discourse-challenges-and-the-way-forward/>