

## **Memory, Psychology and Investigative Interviewing**

The [Irish Méndez Centre for Investigative Interviewing](#) held an expert knowledge exchange event at the [Trinity College Institute for Neuroscience](#), on Monday April 28<sup>th</sup>. This evening seminar, entitled “*Memory, Psychology and Investigative Interviewing*” brought together professionals working in agencies that conduct investigative interviews, such as An Garda Síochána, Fiosrú (the Office of the Police Ombudsman), Tusla, the Corporate Enforcement Authority, and others bodies such as the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Policing and Community Safety Authority, and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, along with related professionals including criminal defence lawyers.



A keynote address was given by ImpleMéndez member [Professor Shane O'Mara](#), Professor of Experimental Brain Research at Trinity College Dublin. Professor O'Mara shared his expertise on the working of memory, the impact of stress thereon, the risks of false confessions in the context of torture, and the value of a rapport-based approach to investigative interviewing. A roundtable discussion then followed where Professor O'Mara was joined by [Dr Lorraine Boran](#) (another member of ImpleMéndez), [Dr Catherine Fassbender](#), and Stella Kuit, all of whom are based in the [School of Psychology](#) at Dublin City University. These three panellists brought particular expertise on vulnerable interviewees, whether as witnesses, victims or suspects. Dr Boran has explored, in particular, pre-trial interviews with autistic suspects; Dr Fassbender has worked closely with offenders with addictions to alcohol, drugs or both; and Ms Kuit, a former solicitor, now psychotherapist, added her expertise on individuals with ADHD and other neurodiversities.



The format of the evening allowed for an extended Q&A to ensure that the content covered was relevant to attendees in their important work. Co-director of the *Irish Méndez Centre for Investigative Interviewing*, [Prof Yvonne Daly](#) from the [School of Law and Government](#) at Dublin City University said “The professionals who attended our event on *Memory, Psychology and Investigative Interviewing* have busy working lives and do not always have the time to

engage with academic research on psychology, so this was a great opportunity to be able to bring the science to them!” The Irish Méndez Centre plans to organise more events, bringing practitioners, academics and policy-makers together to explore issues relating to investigative interviewing in the future. This engagement is part of the [ImpleMéndez COST Action \(CA 22128\)](#) which is focused on supporting the implementation of the [Méndez Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information-Gathering](#).