

# Ethical Dilemmas of an Interpreter Trainer



MARY PHELAN  
DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY  
EULITA CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 2009

# Republic of Ireland



- 2006 census – 10% of population born outside Ireland.
- 167+ languages spoken in Ireland.
- Tender processes - asylum, Courts Service, Police.
- Anyone who speaks English and another language can work as an interpreter.

# Graduate Certificate in Community Interpreting (2004-2009)



- Part time
- Introduction to Interpreting
- Ethics
- Terminology
- Four hours of Interpreting Practice per week.

# Difficulties



- Interpreting qualification is not a requirement to work.
- Cost and location of course
- Need to form group(s) by language.
- Part time lecturers and external examiners (French, Polish, Romanian, Russian and Spanish)
- First language attrition
- Graduates not given preference for work

# Grad Cert/Grad Dip in Legal and Medical Interpreting



- Generic Certificate course for all languages – Intro to Interpreting, Ethics, Criminal law, anatomy & physiology, research methods and findings, guided work experience.
- Add on Diploma/M.A. for groups with a particular language/particular languages.

# Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association/Advocacy



- Submissions to authorities on the importance of using qualified interpreters.
- <http://www.translatorsassociation.ie>

# Interpreting Research



- One completed PhD
- Four students currently pursuing PhDs at DCU
- One student pursuing PhD at Trinity College