

THE CYNEFIN CENTRE FOR ORGANISATIONAL COMPLEXITY

# CYNEFIN™ RETREAT

18 - 21 March 2019 Aran Islands, Ireland



This 4-day Cynefin™ retreat will be hosted on the very edge of Europe, on an island rich in the language, culture and heritage of Ireland. The unique location will take you back to an Ireland of Celts and Early Christians, preserved by centuries of narratives and local traditions.

The March 2019 retreat will be hosted by the Aran Islands Hotel in the village of Cill Rónáin the main settlement on Inis Mór. Upon arriving in Shannon or Galway, participants will be invited to join groups who will make their way to Inis Mór by ferry or by air. Details to be provided upon registration.

The theme of the Aran Islands Cynefin™ retreat will be ***Narratives in Organisations***. With an impressive faculty of thought-leaders in the field, participants will explore the complex influence narrative ecologies have on organisations, identities (national, ethnic, and others), and cultures.

Narrative ecologies can often create conditions for certain types of narrative to have extraordinary significance. One faculty member will present "ideas on how to counter-act or neutralize these narratives and prevent openness and transparency from turning into breeding grounds for scapegoating and witch-hunts". This leadership capability is of critical importance for organisations of all types today.





## A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

This 4-day residential session is designed with a focus on pushing the paradigm in the field of complexity, and stimulating the crystallization of new thinking. The retreat is carefully put together to create a unique experience of embodied contemplation.

This is an exciting, exclusive opportunity for all involved to expand their thinking, and while there is a structure with time blocks and logistics, we will not be constraining ourselves to a fixed agenda. Physical activities (walks/hikes) will be planned around the uniqueness of each venue location\*.

Cynefin™ Retreats are all residential, and inclusive of lodging and meals, allowing for deep immersion with content, counterparts and environment. They are not recorded in full or published verbatim - you need to be there to be a part of it. We will also be using innovative methods to co-create insights during the week.

### **Day 1: Monday**

Delegates should plan to leave with the [ferry](#) at 1030 from Rossaveal Pier, which is 39 kilometres from Galway city, or [opt to fly-in at 0830 or 1130](#). There is also an option for pick-up option from Galway city. Delegates are welcome to explore the island after check-in at the venue. Retreat activities will begin in the afternoon. This session will be mostly social: getting to know each other, finalising roles and responsibilities for the next three days.

### **Days 2-3: Tuesday - Wednesday**

The overall retreat theme will be divided into three subjects based on the retreat focus area and expertise of the faculty. All delegates will nominate one of the days on which they will be first responders. In the morning the faculty will debate the subject, then fall silent, while the first responders discuss the subject allowing each session to finish off with questions. The afternoon will take a modified form of open space, based on the themes that emerge. Participants will then work in smaller groups before a final plenary. Each afternoon will also involve an opportunity to walk and talk, or just reflect. We have chosen venues with that in mind.

### **Day 4: Thursday**

We will have a day of synthesis before a mid-afternoon closing. The [ferry](#) departs at 1700 back to Rossaveal Pier, or you can [fly out at 1615](#). For those who want to stay on, delegates can book additional accommodation before or after the retreat, please drop us a note and we'll explore with the venue. We can also provide details of alternative accommodation on the island.

\*Timing of activities will be weather and location dependent. We will advise on packing recommendations a few weeks prior to each retreat.



# HOW TO JOIN US [\(CLICK HERE TO BOOK\)](#)

Cynefin™ Retreats are residential are inclusive of lodging and meals with the required addition of a room booking. Room-type quantities are limited so bookings are "first come first served".

**Retreat fee** (inclusive of meals & accommodations)

**Single**  
(private accommodations) **USD 5450\*\***

**Single**  
(shared accommodations) **USD 4950\*\***

\*\* - prices do not include VAT

Premium member/Cynefin™ Centre partner discount level of 5% can be applied.

Hoping to attend more than one retreat? Or, hoping to come in a group? Drop us an email at [training@cognitive-edge.com](mailto:training@cognitive-edge.com) to inquire about special rates. Other 2019 retreats are:

11-15 Aug 2019	Tasmania, Australia	Foresight, anticipatory awareness and futures
18-23 Aug 2019	Whistler, BC, Canada	Decision making and perception
24-28 Nov 2019	Snowdonia, Wales	Synthesis - ** INVITATION ONLY **

Please note:

Cancellations / Refunds / Transfers 8 weeks or more prior to event: 50% refund  
No refunds for cancellations made 8 weeks or less prior to event; replacement attendees welcome anytime  
Switching to a different retreat or training event is possible any time but is dependent on availability, and may be subject to a change fee (change fees are dependent on timing of request, venue considerations, special discounts)

Delegates are responsible for arranging their own travel to the designated "gathering point" or the venue itself (this may vary with each retreat and is dependent on the remoteness of the locations). Availability of transfer services will be communicated to delegates 5 to 8 weeks before the retreat.

Full meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) are provided for attendees. For 1/2 days either at the start or end of the retreat either breakfast or dinner will only be provided. If you require special dietary requirements, please inform us when you book online. Food items outside of a retreat's meal plan including alcoholic beverages are subject to additional charges payable by attendee either directly to the venue provider.





# FACULTY FOR ARAN ISLANDS, IRELAND



YIANNIS GABRIEL

I have long been fascinated by stories and storytelling and have used them extensively in my organizational and social research. By eliciting, collecting, listening to and analysing stories, I have explored diverse phenomena such as leader-follower relations, experiences of job loss and unemployment, group politics, dynamics and fantasies, organizational nostalgia, insults and apologies. I am co-founder and co-ordinator of the Organizational Storytelling Seminar series, now in its ninth year. More recently, I have carried out a series of studies of leadership and management. I was part of a team engaged in a four-year field study of leadership and patient-care in the hospital sector, in which storytelling was used as a major part of the methodology. I have also recently carried out research into the experiences of unemployed managers and professionals in the current economic recession. As a committed teacher, I have written a number of textbooks, and have carried our research into the experiences of students in the classroom and have explored the nature of management and professional knowledge and its dissemination.



MOHEB COSTANDI

I am a full-time freelance writer specialising in neuroscience and psychology. My news stories and feature articles have been published in BBC Focus, The Guardian, Nature, New Scientist, Science, Scientific American, The Scientist, and Technology Review, among other publications. I am also the author of 50 Human Brain Ideas You Really Need to Know (Quercus, 2013) and Neuroplasticity (MIT Press, 2016).

As author of the long-standing Neurophilosophy blog, I also have extensive experience in blogging about neuroscience and psychology. My blog has been cited in numerous research papers and textbooks and translated into more than a dozen languages. It has been featured regularly on the New York Times science page, anthologised four times in the Open Lab books of the best online science writing, and was named as one of the most influential neuroscience and psychology blogs by the British Psychological Society in 2009.



MARY CONDREN

My interdisciplinary work concerns the interface between worldviews and gender, with a specific focus on cultures that promote violence. My degrees are in theology, sociology, social anthropology (University of Hull); religion and society (Boston College); religion, gender and culture (Harvard University).

My research draws on mythology, political psychology, psychoanalytic, philosophical and feminist theories, and I currently have several books in progress. The first concerns the contemporary cultural possibilities offered by the pre-Celtic and Celtic figure of Brigit, (goddess and saint) matronness of smithwork, healing, poetry and mercy. The second focuses on the role of sacrifice, violence and legitimization, using Aeschylus' Oresteian trilogy. The third concerns the role of myth and religion in promoting internalised oppression and horizontal violence among women.