



School of
Social Policy,
Social Work
and Social
Justice

10
Years
ANNIVERSARY

SCHOOL SEMINAR SERIES 2025-26



Speaker: Dr. Laura Garbes, Sociologist & Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, USA

ON AIR

**"Book Talk:
Listeners Like
Who? Examining
Public Radio's
White Racial
Organizational
Structure"**



For more information:

<https://www.ucd.ie/socialpolicyworkjustice/research/>



LOCATION

Room D101, Newman
Building, UCD
Belfield Campus



DATE & TIME

Sept. 16th, 2025,
13:00 - 14:00

Registration details:



Co-sponsored by:

The UCD School of Information & Communication Studies and The Geary Institute for Public Policy.



**UCD Geary Institute
for Public Policy**

RESEARCH | ANALYSIS | EVIDENCE

ABSTRACT

Public radio in the United States has long been heralded as a space for inclusive storytelling and diverse perspectives. However, beneath its progressive ethos lies a structural whiteness that has shaped its institutional development, audience engagement, and sonic aesthetic. In *Listeners Like Who?*, Laura describes how public radio's historical formation, donor reliance, and editorial practices have privileged white voices at the expense of marginalized communities. This talk will examine the early decisions that solidified public radio as a predominantly white institutional space, the structural factors that have influenced hiring practices, storytelling norms, and will consider the implications of these findings for media equity and what an antiracist public radio industry might sound like.

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