

# WOMEN IN BUSINESS

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## Dr Suzanne Doyle-Morris: Driving Women Forward

By Myriam O'Carroll

My Skype conversation with native American Dr Suzanne Doyle-Morris started well, only to get interrupted by a call from the Producer of BBC Woman's Hour asking Suzanne to get on air. Being an expert in coaching women working in male-dominated fields, the BBC wanted her to comment on the 'Stay-at-Home Dads' being interviewed. So I also turned on my radio.

Dr Suzanne Doyle-Morris, who has recently released her second book, « *Female Breadwinners : How They Make Relationships Work and Why They Are the Future of the Modern Workforce* », believes that men will eventually step up to grow their share of at-home duties, but "we (the society) have to be careful that they are not stigmatized - and that is from both men and women" she says. She encourages the female breadwinners she trains to praise their husbands for the domestic support and the benefit they get out of it.

When Suzanne was back on the phone, I asked her where her interest in women's issues was born. It goes way back to her childhood, when she avidly started reading Nancy Drew detective stories. Not only was Suzanne fascinated by the real life stories, but she also thought she could become as 'glamorous, smart and funny' as her inspirational fictional character.

After graduating in Women's Studies and Psychology, Suzanne did not know what she wanted to do, but certainly knew

what she did *not* want to do... That is what women had done for years: giving up their lives and identity to take care of other people, be it a husband, ageing

an acclaimed coach for women and an international speaker on female career issues.

Through individual coaching sessions, Suzanne gives women a re-assurance of what they do well or have done well in the past. For Suzanne, it is a simple equation: it is about "doing more of what you do well". In their 'go-go-go' lives, women are too busy getting there, so through coaching, Suzanne acts as a catalyst, helping them to stop, check if they are on the "right road, in the best way and whether the chosen journey could perhaps not be a little bit more enjoyable? ".

Suzanne doesn't claim to know it all, as she also keeps her own coach to help her to 'do better and enjoy more' of what she does.

Suzanne is now the main breadwinner for her family and preaching



to her own parish, she recognizes her husband as her best mentor. "He is extremely supportive of my work. I am blessed," she says nicely.

Living by the sea, in a remote part of Scotland, Suzanne refreshes her mind by walking on the beach, and when not writing her own books, she reads (grown-up!) detective stories. She also enjoys watching the *The Killing* on BBC4 or *30 Rock*, with American comedian Tina Fey... she's come full circle!

She arrived in Ireland and started lining up receptionist and temping jobs. When she met the woman heading-up the Centre for Women Studies at Trinity College in Dublin, Suzanne talked her into giving her a job. She then moved to England, where she completed her PhD in Educational Research at Cambridge. She started doing a few training sessions and some coaching, before setting up her own business. Suzanne is now

Dr Suzanne Doyle-Morris, coach and international speaker

[www.femalebreadwinners.com](http://www.femalebreadwinners.com)