

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester

RESEARCH STAFF CONFERENCE

# FUTUREPROOF YOUR CAREER

COLLABORATION, DEVELOPMENT & SUSTAINABILITY



Wednesday 15th January 2025

Core Technology Facility

Manchester

In partnership with



Manchester  
Metropolitan  
University



University of  
Salford  
MANCHESTER

RESEARCH STAFF CONFERENCE

# WELCOME

## WELCOME TO THE 2025 RESEARCH STAFF CONFERENCE

Futureproof Your Career: Collaboration, Development & Sustainability

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 Research Staff Conference, themed Futureproof Your Career: Collaboration, Development, and Sustainability. This event celebrates the talent, dedication, and innovative spirit of our research staff across the University of Manchester, the University of Salford, and Manchester Metropolitan University. Together, we aim to equip you with the skills, connections, and strategies needed to thrive in a dynamic and ever-changing research landscape.

Collaboration lies at the heart of progress, and this conference reflects that ethos. Today offers a great opportunity to share ideas, build networks, and explore pathways to professional growth. As researchers, your contributions not only advance knowledge but also shape a sustainable future—a goal that aligns closely with the values driving this year's theme.

As Vice-President for Research, I am committed to fostering an environment where researchers can flourish. My own experiences—whether through championing interdisciplinary research, supporting doctoral training, or engaging with global organisations—have reinforced my belief in the power of ambition, collaboration and innovation. I hope this conference inspires you to embrace opportunities for development and to think creatively about the role your work plays in addressing some of society's most pressing challenges.

Thank you for joining us today and for the contributions you make to our research community. Do make the most of the panels, workshops, and networking opportunities. Let this conference be a catalyst for new ideas, meaningful connections, and actionable steps toward futureproofing your career.

### PROFESSOR COLETTE FAGAN

Vice-President for Research  
The University of Manchester

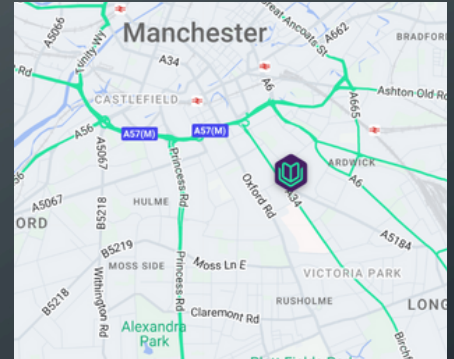


# RESEARCH STAFF CONFERENCE

# KEY INFORMATION

## Venue Information

Core Technology Facility  
46 Grafton St  
Manchester  
M13 9WU  
([Core Technology Facility](#) | [AccessAble](#))



You can view a virtual walkthrough of the venue here:

[CLICK HERE](#)

## Parking and Public Transport

The venue has its own car park, with Blue Badge parking available.

- View information on Campus Car Parks
- The nearest train stations are Oxford Road and Manchester Piccadilly.
- For the latest travel options and information you can plan your travel using Google Maps
- View information on getting here

Delegates are advised to park at the multi-storey car park on Grafton Street, open 24 hours, 7 days per week (maximum height 2 metres).

Please use postcode M13 9WG.

Approximate rates are -

- Upto 3 hours - £2.50
- Upto 6 hours - £5.00
- 24 hours - £15.00

Drivers should collect a ticket on entry and pay at one of the machines prior to collecting their vehicle at the end of the day.

## Wi-Fi Access

Wi-Fi the UoM Conferences & Venues Wi-Fi network is freely available throughout the venue, and anyone can use this following a short registration process. All UoM staff and students can use their normal login credentials via Eduroam

## Social Media

Join the conversation: [#RSConference25](#)

## RESEARCH STAFF CONFERENCE

# AGENDA AND WORKSHOPS

TIME	SESSION AND SPEAKERS	LOCATION
09:30 – 10:00	<b>REGISTRATION</b> with tea and coffee on arrival.	The Street.
10:00 -10:30	<b>WELCOME TALK</b> Professor Colette Fagan, Vice President for Research at The University of Manchester.	Dalton Room.
10:30 -11:30	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b> What does sustainability look like in research? chaired by Dr Siobhan Kelly from The University of Salford	Dalton Room
11:30 -12:00	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b> Tea and coffee	The Street
12:00 -13:00	<b>PARALLEL WORKSHOP SESSIONS 1</b> Narrative CVs with Dr Elizabeth Adams Grant writing reimagined with Dr Glyn Morris Interdisciplinary Speed Networking with Dr Anne Marie Sowerbutts Maximising Your Research Impact with Dr Ashley Gluchowski and Georgina Alsop.	Rutherford Room Dalton Room Innovation Suite The Boardroom
13:00 – 14:30	<b>LUNCH (1HR)</b> Greater Manchester Buddy Scheme Launch for researchers (14:00 - 14:30).	The Street Dalton room
14:30 – 15:30	<b>PARALLEL WORKSHOP SESSIONS 2</b> Narrative CVs with Dr Elizabeth Adams Grant writing reimagined with Dr Glyn Morris Interdisciplinary Speed Networking with Dr Anne Marie Sowerbutts Maximising Your Research Impact with Dr Ashley Gluchowski and Georgina Alsop.	Rutherford Room Dalton Room Innovation Suite The Boardroom
15:30 -16:00	<b>WHAT NOW, WHAT NEXT FOR YOUR CAREER?</b> Reflections on the day, chaired by Dr Sam Fernandes. Image competition winner announced. Closing speech from Professor Melissa Westwood, Associate Vice President for Research at The University of Manchester.	Dalton room

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# MEET THE PANEL

## What Does Sustainability Look Like in Research?

Sustainability is an essential consideration in today's research landscape, shaping how we work, engage with stakeholders, and plan for the future. But what does sustainability mean in the context of your research? This panel brings together experts from diverse fields to share their perspectives and experiences, exploring how sustainability influences their work and the wider research environment. Join us for an insightful discussion on the role sustainability plays in driving innovation, collaboration, and lasting impact.



**DR SHARON  
COEN**

Reader in Media Psychology  
University of Salford

Dr. Sharon Coen is a Reader/Associate Professor in Media Psychology at the University of Salford. She is the Local Network Lead of the UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN) and the UKRN Representative at CoARA (Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment). In her research she applies media psychology to promote actions that minimize the impact of climate change and address the climate emergency. Dr. Coen is passionate about advancing sustainability in research and open science



**DR MATTHEW  
FAULKNER**

Research Fellow  
Future Biomanufacturing  
Research Hub  
University of Manchester

Matthew obtained his PhD in 2018 from the University of Liverpool. From 2018 – 2021 Matthew worked as a Research Associate; this role involved the study of sustainable terpene production through industrial biotechnology. Now at Future Biomanufacturing Research Hub, Matthew is developing novel routes to biological carbon capture utilisation and store using photosynthetic and chemoautotrophic bacteria.



**DR HELEN  
HOLMES**

Senior Lecturer in Sociology  
Sustainable Consumption Institute  
Deputy Director  
of Sustainable Futures  
University of Manchester

Helen's research focuses on waste and disposal and is involved in two projects: One Bin to Rule Them All and The Waste Tip. One Bin to Rule Them All is a UKRI funded project with social sciences, material science and business models to explore how we can improve plastic recycling. The Waste Tip is a UMRI funded project on fly-tipping to understand the impact, why it happens and how it can be tackled. The project involves, social science, material science, business and management, and engineering.

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# MEET THE PANEL



**DR JAJITA  
MANDAL**

Research Fellow  
Environmental Pollution  
University of Salford

Jajita is presently working as a University Fellow at University of Salford. Throughout his academic and professional career, Jajita have dedicated himself to advance in the field of environmental soil chemistry, focusing on the geochemistry, fate, transport, bioavailability of contaminants, and plant nutrients, having a BSc. degree in Agriculture, MSc. in Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science and PhD in Environmental Science.



**PROF  
LIZ PRICE**

Professor of Environmental  
Education  
Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor  
Sustainability  
Manchester Metropolitan  
University

Liz is responsible for driving sustainability across education, research and partnerships and developing a sustainable mindset and skills for student, colleagues and within communities. Liz is a council member for the Institution of Environmental Sciences and a Freeman of the Worship Company of Water Conservators to promote a diverse and sustainable environment. and is a chartered Environmentalist and a Fellow of Royal Geographical Society and Biology and Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.



**DR PRABHURAJ  
VENKATRAMAN**

Senior Lecturer  
in Textile Technology  
Manchester Fashion Institute  
Manchester Metropolitan  
University

Prabhu is a Textile Technologist and Chartered Fellow of the Textile Institute. Prabhu research interests are: technical textiles, focusing on designing and developing functional and performance apparel, and developing sustainable fashion and textiles using natural material and herbal-based dyes for antimicrobial and hygiene textiles.

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# MEET THE PANEL CHAIRS



**DR SIOBHAN  
KELLY**

Siobhán is a Research Fellow at the University of Salford. Her research interests span several areas related to social care, with a particular focus on supporting marginalised individuals and groups/communities. She has contributed to projects around ageing, dementia, social participation, social housing, and care homes. Currently, she is working on a five-year study centred around elevating and empowering the social care nursing workforce.



**DR SAMANTHA  
FERNANDES**

Sam recently completed a PhD in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Manchester. Throughout the PhD, Sam has developed a passion for small group teaching, workshop creation, and peer mentoring, earning a Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA) in recognition of these efforts.

## SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL

Have a question you'd like answered by the panel. You can submit questions to our Padlet via the link below.

**[CLICK HERE](#)**

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# MEET THE FACILITATORS

The workshops offer practical tools and insights to help you thrive in an evolving research landscape. Facilitated by experts from the University of Manchester, the University of Salford, Manchester Metropolitan University, and beyond, these sessions focus on collaboration, career development, and sustainability in research.

## PARALLEL WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Narrative CVs with Dr Elizabeth Adams – Rutherford Room

Grant Writing Reimagined with Dr Glyn Morris – Dalton Room

Interdisciplinary Speed Networking: Find a Potential Collaborator with Dr Anne Marie Sowerbutts – Innovation Suite

Maximising Your Research Impact: Creating and Managing Online Profiles with Dr Ashley Gluchowski and Georgina Alsop – The Boardroom



**DR ELIZABETH  
ADAMS**

● Narrative CVs Workshop

Elizabeth has over 15 years of experience working in career and professional development support in university as an external consultant. Elizabeth is also a coach and some of the topics include leadership, career development and work-life balance. Elizabeth has a PhD in Chemistry.



**GEORGINA  
ALSOP**

● Maximising Your Research  
Impact Workshop

Georgina an Open Research Specialist working in the Open Research Team at Manchester Metropolitan University. She advises and support researchers with their researcher profiles, including ORCID, Scopus and Google Scholar, as well as other areas of open research, including open access publishing. For the last two years she has led projects to identify improvements to data, profile links and quality of Manchester Met researcher profiles and work with researchers to address these.

# MEET THE FACILITATORS



**DR ASHLEY  
GLUCHOWSKI**

Maximising Your Research  
Impact Workshop

Ashley is a clinical exercise physiologist and certified special population specialist. Although her background is in medical science and clinical trials in cardiovascular surgery, she is now interested in the awareness, knowledge, and implementation of the strength component of the UK's Chief Medical Officers' physical activity guidelines in real-world practice. As a Fellow of the University of Salford, her current research takes a co-design approach to developing new strategies to overcome the barriers that we traditionally see to strength training participation.



**DR GLYN  
MORRIS**

Grant Writing Reimagined  
Workshop

Glyn has over 10 years of experience in public and media engagement. He holds an FHEA and a PgCert in Professional and Higher Education. After completing a PhD in Wound Biology Glyn went on to develop his skills in science and communication, public engagement and research impact in various roles.



**DR ANNE MARIE  
SOWERBUTTS**

Interdisciplinary Speed  
Networking: Find a Potential  
Collaborator Workshop

Anne Marie is the Prosper lead at The University of Manchester since June 2023. Anne Marie has worked as a senior dietitian and briefly in cancer research before starting a PhD in theology and bioethics. Prosper@Manchester uses a mix of online resources and supportive workshops and courses for researchers, giving them the time to focus on their career development and building on their professional development.

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# THE GMRESDEV BUDDY SCHEME

The Greater Manchester Researcher Development (GMResDev) Buddy Scheme connects postdocs and early-career researchers (ECRs) from the University of Salford, University of Manchester, and Manchester Metropolitan University. It's a brilliant way to meet new colleagues, expand your network, and enrich your experience as a researcher in a relaxed and informal setting.

## WHY JOIN?

- **Expand Your Network:** Connect with peers at similar career stages across Greater Manchester.
- **Gain Fresh Perspectives:** Build connections beyond your research group and discover new ideas.
- **Enjoy Informal Support:** Share experiences, advice, and encouragement with like-minded colleagues.

Curious to know more? Attend the GMResDev Buddy Scheme Launch at the conference!

14:00 - 14:30 in the Dalton Room

## THE GREATER MANCHESTER RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP (GMRESDEV)



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Manchester  
Metropolitan  
University



University of  
**Salford**  
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# IMAGES IN RESEARCH COMPETITION

In line with the Futureproof Your Career theme, we're excited to launch the Images in Research Competition! This is your chance to showcase the innovative spirit of your work while highlighting what "Sustainability in Research" means to you.

## WHAT'S INVOLVED?

Share an image that captures the essence of your research. Shortlisted entries will be displayed at the conference, and attendees will vote for their favorite. A winner will be announced during the closing session.

Prizes:

- People's Choice Awards:
  - Winner: £45 Love2Shop voucher
  - Runner-up: £25 Love2Shop voucher
- Judges' Choice Award:
  - Winner: £45 Love2Shop voucher

## How to Get Involved

1. Download and complete both forms:
  - [Application Form](#)
  - [Image Authorisation Form](#)
2. Email the completed forms and your image to [resdev@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:resdev@manchester.ac.uk) by **10th January 2025**.

## GOT QUESTIONS?

Contact us at [resdev@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:resdev@manchester.ac.uk) for more information.

We can't wait to see how your work captures the theme of sustainability in research!

# RESEARCH STAFF CONFERENCE WELLBEING TEAM

If you have any questions or needs for your physical or mental wellbeing during the Research Staff Conference, any of the colleagues below will be available to help you.



**DR ANGELA  
MIDGLEY**

She/Her



**SAMANTHA  
FERNANDES**

She/Her



**DR JONATHAN  
GLEDHILL**

He/Him



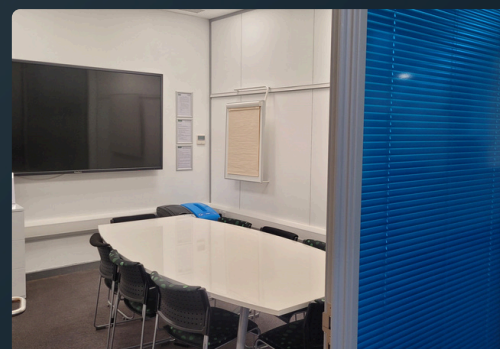
**DR GEMMA  
MUCKLE**

She/Her

## QUIET SPACES

If you need directions to any of the quiet spaces, ask a member of the WellbeingTeam.

### Blue Room



### Green Room



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# THANK YOU

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the 2025 Research Staff Conference.

Special thanks to:

- Our speakers and panellists for agreeing to share their expertise and insights.
- Workshop facilitators for crafting engaging and practical sessions.
- The Researcher Development Teams at the University of Manchester, the University of Salford, and Manchester Metropolitan University for their dedication in organising this event.
- All attendees for bringing your curiosity, ideas, and enthusiasm to what promises to be a fantastic day.

Help Us Shape Future Conferences

Your feedback is invaluable to us. After the event, we'd love to hear about your experiences and ideas for improvement. Please take a few minutes to complete our feedback form by using the link below.

[CLICK HERE](#)

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