

# CENTRE FOR INNOVATION MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

Annual Report 2024

BIRKBECK, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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## WHO WE ARE

The Centre for Innovation Management Research (CIMR) is a College-wide research centre. Launched in 2008, its members are drawn from a variety of disciplines, from Management and other social sciences to Computer Science and Biology. Thematically it encompasses science, innovation and technology systems, intellectual property rights, markets, social capital, entrepreneurship, globalisation and gender in both theory and practice. Analysis and communication of the implications of our research for policy-making (for governments and businesses) are central to the Centre's activities.

CIMR's members belong to four categories. The strength of the Centre comes from their interactions:

**Academic staff** are the core members of the Centre. They are responsible for the advancement of one or more of our specific research themes. They publish cutting edge articles in the world's leading journals and work closely with stakeholders.

**PhD students** are an essential component in the Centre's membership. Their affiliation is based on their being either first or second supervised by a core member of the CIMR academic staff. In practice, this means those in the Management Department, however all PhD students who are supervised by CIMR academic staff are invited to attend – e.g. those in Economics, Computer Science and the School of Science.

**Visiting Fellows** are special assets for the Centre. They are colleagues who work closely with the CIMR. They include entrepreneurs, policy-makers, business people, academics in other UK universities, and academics who work outside the UK, including France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Sweden and the US.

**Alumni** are former Masters and PhD students working in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship. They have varied career experiences. Their continued involvement brings current ideas and insights to our programme and several of them give guest lectures on our teaching programmes.

CIMR Management Team is formed by:

- Professor Helen Lawton Smith (Director)
- Dr Marion Frenz (Deputy Director)
- Dr Federica Rossi (Deputy Director)

- Dr Thanos Fragkandreas (Associate Director)
- Ms Gabriella Losito (Media engagement officer)
- Dr Oldile Janne, Ms Jo Magnani and Miliica Bozanic (Alumni Co-ordinators)
- Ms Emma Palmer-Foster (PhD Co-ordinator)
- Professor Carlo Milana and Professor Klaus Nielsen (CIMR WP co-editors)
- Ms Jacqueline Winstanley (CIMR Entrepreneur in Residence)

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

On many fronts 2024 was a very successful year for CIMR. Highlights were CIMR's collaboration with colleagues in other universities and our high-level publication and outreach activities.

### ***Events and collaborations***

As well as the regular CIMR Debates in Public Policy, we held two joint workshops. The first was hosted in April at Birmingham, led by Professor Fumi Kitagawa, in collaboration with City-Region Economic Development Institute ([City-REDI](#)), University of Birmingham (UoB), with kind support from the Innovation and Research Caucus (IRC).



The second workshop was hosted at the Shard by our colleagues at the ERC/Innovation & Research Caucus, led by Professor Stephen Roper, Warwick University in early October. In both cases the intention was to consolidate our joint research interests through application for funding and publications. Both were very successful. CIMR will be looking to do more in the future.



### ***People***

CIMR celebrated CIMR Visiting Fellow, Michael Mainelli becoming a Fellow of Birkbeck. We are very proud that he has been a Visiting Fellow of CIMR since November 2022.

Michael came to Birkbeck's attention when he held the role of Sheriff of the City of London in 2019 and became involved in Birkbeck's Centre for Innovation Management Research (CIMR), through chairing a CIMR Debate in Public Policy on Green Finance and Innovation in June 2021.





CIMR also welcomed Professor Henry Etzkowitz as a Visiting Fellow. Henry is a longtime colleague of many members of CIMR and we are very pleased that he is joining us formally. Professor Etzkowitz, of course, is a famous and distinguished scholar of international reputation in innovation studies. He is the originator of the Entrepreneurial University and with the late Loet Leydesdorff of the Triple Helix concept. The triple helix model has informed academic and policy thinking worldwide. Henry is the President & Co-Founder, International Triple Helix Institute, Menlo Park CA (Silicon Valley).



CIMR also welcomed a visiting PhD student, Matteo Capriolo from the University of Milan in November 2024 for six months. His arrival prompted CIMR to hold our first live PhD workshop in several years. It brought together many of CIMR's current and past PhD students. It was organized by Emma Palmer Foster and Matteo Capriolo. It was lovely for the supervisors to re-engage with so many of our past students. The welcome to the event was given by Marion Frenz – herself a Birkbeck alumna. This will not be the last such event and has already led to a joint event being held in February 2025 with the University of Milan.



### ***Research and impact***

CIMR's ethos is that of engagement in current debates relating to innovation. This is underpinned by high level research and publications. Numerous examples of how members of CIMR deliver insights into academic discourses and to applied arenas.

Among the high-profile public policy events were Jacqueline Winstanley's appointment as Secretariat for the APPG for Disability and Birgitte Andersen's appointment as Secretariat for the All Party Parliamentary Group Artificial Intelligence.

***Not so good...***

We have also suffered from Birkbeck's IT outage in July which took down many college webpages including that of CIMR. We are awaiting our new page to be implemented on the college website which our CIMR Media Engagement Officer Gabriella Losito will manage. Our publicity strategy has relied on LinkedIn and our colleagues' dissemination outlets – for which we are very grateful.

My thanks to the whole CIMR team for the wonderful work and team spirit.

I commend our annual report to our members and friends which celebrates our achievements in the past year.

Professor Helen Lawton Smith, *Director of CIMR January 2025*

## NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS

**Doyin Olorunfemi** was appointed Lecturer in Management at the University of Sunderland (London campus) in May 2024 where she is Academic Champion for embedding Employability and Enterprise. This role entails embedding practice elements within the curriculum and championing pedagogical strategy that adequately prepares students for the workplace. Also, to support her career development as a researcher and an educator, Doyin was awarded the Institute of Small Business and Entrepreneurship ECR training grant in December 2024.

**Helen Lawton Smith** became Member of the Wolfson College, Oxford Equality & Welfare Committee, Member ESRC Peer Review College. Spring 2024.

**Grazia Ietto Gillies** became Member of Editorial Board of Italian Economic Journal. Spring 2024.

**Jacqueline Winstanley** formally registered as Secretariat at the AGM of the Disability APPG Parliament London. Spring 2024.

**Birgitte Andersen** was re-appointed to provide the Secretariat for the All Party Parliamentary Group for Artificial Intelligence following the change of government.

**Nicola Searle** has been appointed as Reader at the Goldsmith University of London. Dr. Searle teaches on the MACCE degree, where she runs the Theories of Capital and Dissertation & Project modules and supervises students and dissertations throughout the year.

**Jacqueline Winstanley and Helen Lawton Smith** gave evidence to a DWP Select Committee at the House of Commons on May 1 2024. The proceedings were televised on Parliament TV ([Parliamentlive.tv - Commons](https://parliamentlive.tv/Channel/commons)). [Pdf link](#)





**Jacqueline Winstanley** entered into a partnership with Parallel's Founder and Chief Executive Andrew Douglas collaborating on the proposed Inclusive Entrepreneur Network Accelerator Programme.

**Daniele Archibugi** has published his first novel in Italian: *The wild night of Kant and Casanova*, after a life spent in publishing academic books and scientific articles.

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## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS AND PROJECTS

**CIMR people undertake world class research. Here are some examples.**

The paper [Integration of Small-Scale Farmers into Innovation Management within Contract Farming Companies in Developing Countries](#) by Tojonirinarisoa Nomenjanahary Ravelosaona, the author brings a fresh perspective on the connection between contracting companies and smallholders in the realm of innovation. The findings provide valuable practical insights for the field of contract farming, shedding light on how companies can foster a symbiotic relationship with small-scale farmers to drive innovation.

The paper [Indicators of absorptive capacity. Conceptual framework and estimates for 25 countries and 24 UK sectors](#) by Marion Frenz, CIMR Co-director and Grazia Ietto Gillies, CIMR Visiting Fellow, published on the *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics* is the outcome of a project that started some 12 years ago. Absorptive capacity (ACAP) as a concept has a very long history. With this paper the authors discuss the limitation of their results while hoping that the research and policy communities move towards an agreed framework for the conceptualization and operationalization of indicators of absorptive capacity.

In their research paper titled **"Institutionalising the Digital Transition: The Role of Digital Innovation Intermediaries."**; **Federica Rossi**, CIMR Co-Director; alongside **Ana Colovic**, **Annalisa Caloffi**, and **Margherita Russo**, explore the pivotal role that these intermediaries play in supporting the digital transition. The full paper can be accessed [here](#).

## EXTERNAL GRANTS

<b>Names</b>	<b>Grant title/topic</b>	<b>Funder</b>	<b>Period</b>
Daniele Archibugi with Maria Savona, Luiss University of Rome, and Francesco Venturini, University of Urbino	'Digital INNOvation: an assessment of the relationship between DATA and other intangible assets and productivity (INNODATA)'	Italian Ministry for University and Research	January 2024 to September 2025
Nicola Searle	'Trusted Research & Innovation: An Investigation of Knowledge Leakage' <a href="https://ircaucus.ac.uk/announcingwinners-of-the-irc-open-call/">https://ircaucus.ac.uk/announcingwinners-of-the-irc-open-call/</a>	Innovation Research Caucus	May 2024 to January 2025
Ron Smith	'Improving Measurement of Public Service Productivity'	The Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence.	January 2024 to 31 March 2025.
Muthu De Silva	'Mobility of staff between universities and businesses'	The National Centre for Universities and Business	May to October 2024
Muthu De Silva	'Capabilities and skills needs for STI in transitions'	OECD	January 2024 to December 2025

Federica Rossi	Manufacturing companies and the challenge of sustainable innovation in the Emilia Region (SUSTAINABLE-EMILIA)	University of Modena and Reggio Emilia	January to December 2025
Federica Rossi with Ning Baines	The role of cultural institutions in the UK's higher education research ecosystem	Society for Research in Higher Education	January to December 2025

## BIRKBECK GRANTS

Name	Grant title / topic	Funder	Period
Helen Lawton Smith, Federica Rossi and Marion Frenz	CIMR Media Engagement	BEI School Impact Grant	January 2025 –July 2025
Marion Frenz with Saverio Romeo from CIMR, Prof. Frederic Marimon; Marta Mas Machuca from Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC) Barcelona.	Research on the use of GenAI in small businesses.	Birkbeck's Research Innovation Fund	1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024



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# KEYNOTES, INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

## **Federica Rossi**

- Paper Speaker at 'Approaches to international collaboration in clinical research: a study of Italian research hospitals', Dipartimento di Economia, Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia, 23rd January 2024
- Speaker at 'Emerging business models and competence development of digital innovation intermediaries', CitiRedi - Birkbeck Skills for Innovation workshop, 24 April 2024
- Speaker at 'Innovation intermediaries and the digital transition: from service providers to ecosystem coordinators', Invited talk, ISCCI Symposium on Innovation, 29th April 2024
- Speaker at 'KEF and Small Specialists: Key findings and reflections', Invited talk NCACE Evidence Café 13: Knowledge Exchange and Small Specialist Arts, 9 May 2024
- Speaker at 'Approaches to international collaboration in clinical research: a study of Italian research hospitals', Invited Seminar, Università di Torino, 11th June 2024
- Federica Rossi "Digital innovation intermediaries: Evidence of evolving business models, roles and organisational types", Workshop on Research and innovation intermediate institutes and regional industrial policy, Cambridge, 3-4 October 2024
- Federica Rossi, Ugo Finardi, "Approaches to International Collaborations in Clinical Research: a study of Italian Research Hospitals", 13th Annual Workshop on Medical Innovation and Healthcare (WOMI) , December 11th – 13th, 2024, University of Manchester

## **Grazia letto Gillies**

- Paper Presentation 'Economic Policy in the era of transnational corporations and digitalization. Remembering Federico Caffè', at Conference: Federico Caffè: La Politica Economica al Servizio delle Persone', Dipartimento Economia, Università di Perugia, 21-22nd March, 2024

- Speaker at Festival dell'Economia, 2024; Member of the panel discussing: 'Federico Caffè, l'economista etico che mirava al bene comune'. Chaired by Roberto Da Rin, Journalist, Il Sole 24 Ore; 26 May 2024

### **Helen Lawton Smith**

- Paper Presentation 'Systemic innovation: changing roles of universities, minority entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems', Presentation at Geoinno 2024, Manchester University, 13th January 2024
- Potter, J and Lawton Smith H (2024) 'Applying the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Concept to Regional Entrepreneurship Policy Analysis – A Critique', Workshop on Entrepreneurial Ecosystems book launch, Oxford University Event, Kellogg College, Oxford, May 17 2024
- Lawton Smith, H, O'Gorman, W and Hayes, R. (2024). 'Graduates' contribution to the growth and development of high-tech, knowledge driven, high growth enterprises: the case of Waterford in Ireland'. City-REDICIMR joint workshop, April 23 2024

### **Helen Lawton Smith and Fumi Kitagawa**

- Panel Members, launch of R. Huggins, F. P. Thompson, F. Kitagawa, C. Theodoraki and D. Prokop (eds) 'Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in Cities and Regions', Oxford: OUP Presented Chapter 28: 'Applying the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Concept to Regional Entrepreneurship Policy Analysis – A Critique', Geoinno 2024, Manchester University, 13th January 2024

### **Helen Lawton Smith and Jacqueline Winstanley**

- Lawton Smith, H and Winstanley, J (2024) Knowledge Miles: The 695th Lord Mayor's Lectures: Disabled Entrepreneurs In London: Are They Getting A Fair Deal? August 15 2024
- Lawton Smith, H and Winstanley, J May 1, 2024 gave evidence to a DWP Select Committee at the House of Commons on May 1 2024. The proceedings were televised on Parliament TV ([Parliamentlive.tv](https://www.parliamentlive.tv) - Commons). [Parliamentlive.tv](https://www.parliamentlive.tv) - Work and Pensions Committee see also <https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/130301/pdf/>

### **Marion Frenz**

- With Odile Janne and Grace Bo Peng presentation of research entitled 'Training for microbusinesses to innovate. Evidence from the UK Longitudinal Small Business Survey.' at the joint City-Redi CIMR workshop in Birmingham. April 2024.

- With Frederic Marimon, Marta Mas-Machuca and Saverio Romeo research into 'The use of generative AI and employee performance in small and medium-sized organizations. Unlocking potential through trust.' This research is made possible through funding from Birkbeck's Research Innovation Fund and the support from alumni and friends of Birkbeck. Presentation at the 1st International Conference on AI-driven Strategic Transformation (ICAIST) 2025 – Revolutionizing Talent Management and Organizational Dynamics with Generative AI, Barcelona, International University of Catalonia, Spain. February 2025.

### **Milica Bozanic**

- Paper Presentation 'Economic Incentive Policies Impact on the Development of the National Film Industries in the Low Audiovisual Capacity Countries: The Hollywood Effect in Central and East Europe.', Geoinno 2024, Manchester University, 13th January 2024

### **Thanos Fragkandreas**

- Speaker at the "Workshop on the Secondary Innovation Objective", Bank of England, London, April 2024.
- Speaker at the Joint Exploratory Workshop: 'Emerging Technologies for Effective Teaching, Assessment, and Research', Title of the presentation: 'Paradoxical Dialogues and AI Bias in Research-Based Teaching.' University of Westminster, London, June 2025.

### **Muthu De Silva**

- Keynote speaker at the Innovation Spring Conference 2024, organized by the Research Network on Innovation. The theme of the conference was "Systemic Innovations: Industry, Society, Environment." Title of the speech - "Coreation and green innovation"; 21 March 2024, Nancy (France).
- Speaker of the SIIB 2024: 'Early Career Researchers Conference in Strategy, Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and International Business'. The conference is jointly organised by the University of Manchester, University of Nottingham, De Montfort University, British Academy of Management, and BAM Entrepreneurship Special Interest Group; 10th of April 2024.
- Speaker of the 60th Anniversary Event of the University of Bradford School of Management, Title of the speech - "How co-creation offers opportunities to businesses to simultaneously generate business, environmental, and social value" University of Bradford, 17 April 2024.
- Speaker of the CII IP Licensing Course organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry, held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2024. Title of my speech- "Co-creation and



Intellectual Property Rights”.

Keynote Speaker of the first [Innovation & Research Caucus](#) postgraduate and early career researcher mini-conference on engaged scholarship held on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2024. Title of the speech –“Co-creation: how academics simultaneously generate theoretically rigorous and practically impactful research”

### **Jacqueline Winstanley**

- Attended Nuffield Foundation Place and opportunity: a better future for work and skills Webinar, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- Speaker at the Avanti West Coast Accessibility Panel, 7th March 2024
- Speaker at the CMHW Annual Research Meeting in Aberdeen, 14th February 2024
- Speaker at Award Ceremony Disability in Westminster Lisa Cameron MP Lifetime Award, 18th March 2024



- Speaker at the Impact Salon: Equitable workforce development in the age of AI LinkedIn London, 27th March 2024
- Co-Chaired & Presented at the Policy Debate 'The Missing Link - Inclusion Modelling within Innovation & Enterprise' – CIMR Birkbeck, University of London online

- Attended 'Increasing secure work in the UK' - Work Foundation Lancaster Uni online
- Chaired Panel at the Inaugural Inclusive Enterprise Pathway's Enhanced Mentoring Programme Celebration Event, Belfast City Hall, Belfast, 27th March 2024



- Guest speaker at BCC Inclusive Enterprise Pathway: Virtual Group Workshop
- Attended Innovate UK No Limits launch online specifically for disabled people
- Presented at Centre for Musculoskeletal Health & Work Annual Research Meeting 2024 University of Aberdeen
- Presented evidence at Select Committee inquiry into disability employment
- Attended Impact Summit 2024 | LinkedIn for Nonprofits virtual event
- Disability APPG with ITV's Diversity and Inclusion team, Room T Portcullis House
- Attended several Savvitas events as a Special envoy hosted by The Earl of Erroll at House of Lords
- Presented at Unpacking the Disability Employment Gap - Nuffield Foundation, London
- Guest Speaker at Wired Differently event at the Royal Society of the Arts in London

- Presented at The 695th Lord Mayor's Lectures: Disabled Entrepreneurs In London: Are They Getting A Fair Deal?
- Invited by Shaw Trust, the British Ambassador & Channel 4 to attend 2024 Paris Paralympics Garden Party, at the British Embassy Paris.
- Attended 'Working for the Future: Launch of the final report from the Commission on the Future of Employment Support'
- Contributed to 'World Business Women's Day' event hosted by The Earl of Erroll - House of Lords.
- Judge for Disability Power 100 2024 The Drum Wembley, London
- Contributed to the Innovate UK Women in Innovation Roundtable – Hilton, Birmingham

### **Chunjia Han**

- 2024 Symposium on Innovation and Entrepreneurship Education and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Policy & the 6th International Conference on Creative Management, City University of Hong Kong

### **Daniele Archibugi**

- Keynote Speaker at the United Nations University Merit Internal Conference for Doctoral students on Next Generation Innovation Studies in Maastricht, the Netherlands, on 26 September 2024
- Chair at the Workshop on ERA HUBSSS: The knowledge and innovation territorial ecosystems within the European Innovation Policies at the Italian National Research Council, Irsirfa, Rome, on 3rd October 2024. His introductory speech was on Globalization and Innovation.
- Keynote Speaker at the Opening of the Conference of Doctoral Students on The life and times of the doctoral student at the Università Mercatorum, Rome, on 16 December 2024
- Keynote Speaker on *Immanuel Kant and Giacomo Casanova, prophets of the Enlightenment* at the Immanuel Kant, 300 Years from Now Conference at the University of Catania, 17-19 October 2024.
- Presented a paper on *Cosmopolitan Democracy to the Test of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* at the Confucius-Aristotle Symposium July 8-12 2024 in Qufu and on the invitation of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, a global Initiative for the United Nations,

### **Ron Smith**

- Presented a paper on "Issues in the use of ARDL models", Conference to Celebrate Hashem Pesaran's Achievements, University of Southern California, 12 April 2024.



- Presented a paper on “Identifying and exploiting alpha in linear asset pricing models with strong, semi-strong, and latent factors”, Solbridge International Business School, South Korea, May 2024.
- Presented a paper on “Budgeting for Defence” Ministry of Defence Lunchtime Lecture, August 2024
- Presented a paper on “Economic Policies for Defence” Lecture at Joint Services Command and Staff College, November 2024

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## CIMR EVENTS 2024

### CIMR DEBATES IN PUBLIC POLICY

CIMR organised a set of lunchtime one-hour online debates on topical issues. In each, leading scholars and practitioners presented their ideas on current economic, innovation and policy issues with the audience challenging their ideas.

Each has addressed critically important societal issues such as advances in new technology, equality, diversity and inclusion, skills

Date	Title	More Information	Links
<b>7 February 2024</b>	<b>Generative AI Tools for Organisations – Which benefits? Which challenges?</b>	Panelists: Dr. Paul Nulty (Birkbeck), Dr Andrew Atter (GBS Oxford Brookes University and Birkbeck), Shazade Jameson (Technopolis Group, Belgium); Chair: Saverio Romeo (University of Westminster and Birkbeck)	<a href="#">YouTube Event</a> <a href="#">Video link</a> <a href="#">Event blog link</a>
<b>13 March 2024</b>	<b>The role of arts and culture research in addressing grand challenges? Evidence from REF 2021</b>	Presenters: Ning Baines (University of Leicester), Federica Rossi (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia and Birkbeck), Evelyn Wilson (National Centre for Academic and Cultural Exchange); Discussant: Matthew Guest (University of Central Lancashire) Chair: Milica Bozanic (Serbia Film Commission)	<a href="#">YouTube Event video link</a> <a href="#">Event blog link</a>
<b>20 March 2024</b>	<b>‘The Missing Link’ – Models in moving D&amp;I Policy into Sustainable Working Practice within Entrepreneurial ecosystems</b>	Panelists: Helene Martin Gee – Savvitas Women in Enterprise; Penny Roberts – Co Founder BankAbility Ltd; Anna Roughley – Head of Insight – Lending Standards Board – Banking and Financial Services; Co-chairs: Jacqueline Winstanley (Universal Inclusion), Jonathan Potter (OECD)	<a href="#">Event blog link</a>

<b>12 June 2024</b>	<b>Importance of interdisciplinary research for knowledge exchange in universities: An organizational perspective</b>	Presenters: Marianna Marra (University of Sussex) and Abhijit Sengupta (University of Surrey) Discussant: Daniele Rotolo (University of Sussex)	<a href="#">YouTube Event video link</a> <a href="#">Event blog link</a>
<b>19 June 2024</b>	<b>Demand side public policy for innovation</b>	Chair: Dr. Marion Frenz, Birkbeck CIMR Speaker: Dr. Fabrizio Tuzi – senior researcher at Institute on Regional Studies – Italian National Research Council Discussants: Prof. Daniele Archibugi, Birkbeck, CIMR; Prof. Helen Lawton Smith, Birkbeck, CIMR	<a href="#">Event blog link</a>
<b>4 December 2024</b>	<b>How to Strengthen Entrepreneurship Policy Evaluation? Getting more reliable evaluations and learning from evaluations (CIMR debates in Public Policy)</b>	Chair: Dr. Federica Rossi, Associate Professor of Economic Policy, Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia and Deputy Director, Birkbeck Centre for Innovation Management Research; Speakers: Dr Jonathan Potter, OECD; Shannen Enright, Assistant Principal, Data and Evaluation Unit, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Ireland; Prof. Marc Cowling, Professor of Economics and Productivity, Oxford Brookes Business School, Oxford Brookes University, UK	<a href="#">YouTube Event video link</a>

## OTHER WORKSHOPS AND PANEL EVENTS FEATURING CIMR COLLEAGUES

<b>24 April 2024</b>	<b>Skills for Innovation Workshop</b>	In collaboration City-Region Economic Development Institute ( <a href="#">City-REDI</a> ), University of Birmingham (UoB), with kind support from the Innovation and Research Caucus (IRC).	<a href="#">Event blog link</a>
<b>14 May 2024</b>	<b>Sustainable Innovation and Digitalisation Workshop</b>	<p>Chair: Dr. David Bartlett (Kogod School of Business)</p> <p>Saverio Romeo (Birkbeck, University of London) "Digital Technologies and Sustainability: A Challenging Relationship";</p> <p>Muthu de Silva (Birkbeck, University of London) and Brett Anitra Gilbert (Kogod Business School) "Gone, but not forgotten: emigrants and the co-creation of sustainable social innovations for origin countries";</p> <p>Taha Anis, Sanna Kumpulainen &amp; Johanna Hautala (University of Vaasa) "Perceived sustainability in remote knowledge working with advanced information technologies"</p> <p>Final discussion – Panel: Helen Lawton Smith, Jouni Juntunen, Tomasz Mroczkowski, Muthu de Silva, Federica Rossi</p>	<a href="#">YouTube Event video link</a>



<b>7 June 2024</b>	<b>Joint Exploratory Workshop: Emerging Technologies for Effective Teaching, Assessment and Research</b>	In collaboration with <a href="#">Westminster CETI</a> , SGW, <a href="#">University of Westminster</a> , Innogen and the <a href="#">University of Edinburgh</a> .	<a href="#">Event blog link</a>
<b>2 October 2024</b>	<b>Building Inclusive Innovation Systems</b>	In collaboration with the Enterprise Research Centre (UK) and Innovation & Research Caucus. The idea arose from conversations between Stephen Roper (Warwick University), ERC and IRC and Prof Tim Vorley OBE (Oxford Brookes and IRC), about how best to foster a dialogue between researchers in both organisations.	<a href="#">Event blog link</a>
<b>21 November 2024</b>	<b>PhD Workshop</b>	The ten contributors: Emma Palmer Foster, Filipe Martins Gomes, Jacqueline Winstanley FRSA, Maja Savic, Maryam Ghorbankhani, Matteo Capriolo, Ning Baines, Peter Jelfs, Sam Sherwood, Thanos Fragkandreas.	<a href="#">Event blog link</a>

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# CIMR RESEARCH BLOGS

Blogs are published by CIMR members' on their news and reflections, and on CIMR events

[\*\*Nurturing innovation in contract farming: a closer look at small-scale farmers in Africa\*\*](#) - by Tojonirinarisoa Nomenjanahary Ravelosaona; 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024

[\*\*How does academic research generate impact through, or on, artistic and cultural activities? An analysis of the 2021 REF impact case studies\*\*](#) - by Dr Federica Rossi, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

[\*\*The value of multidisciplinary in university research collaborations\*\*](#) - by Dr Federica Rossi, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024

[\*\*CIMR Research in Focus 15: Inclusive Entrepreneurship and Innovation within the digital technology and contract farming fields.\*\*](#) - by Gabriella Losito; 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

[\*\*Industrial Policies for Technological Upgrading in Western Balkan Countries\*\*](#) - by Dr Fadil Sahiti; 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024

[\*\*Self-employment as a route to finding work for disabled people\*\*](#) - by Helen Lawton Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024

[\*\*New Virtual Special Issue: Innovation Intermediaries and Emerging Digital Technologies\*\*](#) - by Federica Rossi; 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024

[\*\*Rethink University Partnerships: Here's What Really Drives \(Different Type of\) Impact in University-Industry Partnerships\*\*](#) - by Federica Rossi; 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**The role of Local Authorities in cultural knowledge exchange** - by Federica Rossi; 27<sup>th</sup> July 2024

[Knowledge Miles: The 695th Lord Mayor's Lectures: Disabled Entrepreneurs In London: Are They Getting A Fair Deal?](#) – by Helen Lawton Smith and Jacqueline Winstanley, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024

[The value of a Student and Early Career Researcher Conference](#) - Blog by Emma Palmer Foster, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

[Driving Digital Transformation: Key Findings on Innovation Intermediaries](#) – by Federica Rossi, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024

[Building Bridges: The Impact of Firm Objectives on University Partnerships](#) – by Federica Rossi, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024

[The Absorptive Capacity project comes to fruition](#) – by Marion Frenz and Grazia Ietto Gillies, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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## CIMR NEWS BLOGS

[CIMR Shines at GeoInno2024 Conference in Manchester](#) - 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

[Celebrating Achievements and Looking Forward: CIMR Annual Report 2023](#) - 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024

[Honouring Loet Leydesdorff](#) - 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024

[Palgrave Handbook of Social Sustainability in Business Education](#) – 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024

[Our \(refreshed\) Spring CIMR Newsletter is here!](#) – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024

[Skills for Innovation Workshop: A CIMR and City-REDI Event](#) – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024

[Overview of the Skills for Innovation workshop co-organised with City-REDI, UoB and IRC](#) – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

[\*\*Emerging Technologies for Effective Teaching, Assessment and Research: Joint Exploratory Workshop with University of Westminster\*\*](#) - 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024

[\*\*The book launch: Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in Cities and Regions – The Oxford University Event, Kellogg College, University of Oxford, May 17 2024\*\*](#) - 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**Presentation of the Palgrave Handbook of Social Sustainability in Business Education to the select diplomats at the UN, New York, May 31 2024** - 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024

[\*\*Building Inclusive Innovation Systems - A review of our Joint Workshop with ERC and IRC\*\*](#) – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

[\*\*CIMR Debate organized by and for PhD researchers\*\*](#) – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024

[\*\*CIMR celebrates Alderman Michael Mainelli becoming a Fellow of Birkbeck\*\*](#) – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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## OTHER BLOGS AND POSTS

[\*\*FEDERICO CAFFÈ: UNA DONNA, ALUNNA, ECONOMISTA LO RICORDA\*\*](#) - by Grazia letto Gillies, 4th January 2024

[\*\*New Year clampdown on online sales earnings by HMRC could see almost one in six British workers paying more tax\*\*](#) - by National Enterprise Network; 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

[\*\*Campaigning to boost the UK's business support network\*\*](#) - by National Enterprise Network; 1st March 2024

[\*\*More budget changes ... but the fundamental needs for enterprise and employability don't change\*\*](#) – by National Enterprise Network; 11th March 2024

[\*\*Letters of Introduction? Lear, Gissing and Douglas's Travels to Calabria\*\*](#) – by Grazia letto Gillies, 12th February 2024



[Attracting entrepreneurial scientists – should the UK be more like the US?](#) - by Prof. Peter Jelfs, Dr Angus Holford, Tommaso Sartori; 13th June 2024

[ITV Amplify 2.0 meet the APPG for Disability](#) – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024

[Inclusivity and Innovation: Understanding Challenges and Opportunities for Innovative Disabled Entrepreneurs](#) – by Jacqueline Winstanley, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024

[Jacqueline Winstanley calls for a Paradigm Shift](#) – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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# INTERACTION WITH BUSINESS, SOCIETY AND POLICY MAKERS (IMPACT)



**Jacqueline Winstanley and Helen Lawton Smith** gave evidence to a DWP Select Committee at the House of Commons on May 1 2024. The proceedings were televised on Parliament TV ([Parliamentlive.tv - Commons](https://www.parliamentlive.tv/Programme.aspx?ChannelID=1&ProgramID=130301)). Parliamentlive.tv - Work and Pensions Committee see also [committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/130301/pdf/](https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/130301/pdf/)

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# RESEARCH OUTPUT

**This section includes research output by CIMR academic staff and Visiting Fellows.**

CIMR members continue to excel in research output.

All publications by Birkbeck staff can be found on [Biron](#).

## BOOKS

Lawton Smith, H **The Geography of Academic Entrepreneurship: Spin-offs. Firm Growth and Regional Impact** Edward Elgar (June 2023)

Chunjia Han, Guest Editor, **Green Lifestyle Transformation in the Digital Era**, Frontiers in Psychology

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

Akhtar, P. and De Silva, Muthu and Khan, Z. and Tarba, S. and Amankwah-Amoah, J. and Wood, G. (2024) "**Digital transformation in public-private collaborations: The success of humanitarian supply chain operations.**" International Journal of Production Economics pp. 109461. ISSN 0925-5273.  
<https://eprints.bbk.ac.uk/id/eprint/54503>

Chunjia, H. (2024), "**An Optimal Decision of Fresh Products Cold Chain Considering Freshness and Carbon Emission Reduction**", British Food Journal. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1108/bfj-12-2023-1089>

Chunjia, H. (2024), "**Coordination and optimization decision of assembly building supply chain under supply disruption risk**", 2024, International Journal Of Industrial Engineering Computations. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5267/j.ijiec.2024.7.002>

Chunjia, H. (2024), "**Cross-border supply chain coordination of low-carbon agricultural products under the risk of supply uncertainty**". 2024, PloS one. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0309763>

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Chunjia, H. (2024), "**Measuring the relationship between museum attributes and visitors: An application of topic model on museum online reviews**", 2024, *PLOS ONE*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0304901>

Chunjia, H. (2024), "**Prioritizing User Requirements for Digital Products using Explainable Artificial Intelligence: A Data-Driven Analysis on Video Conferencing Apps**", 2024, *Future Generation Computer Systems*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.future.2024.04.037>

Chunjia, H. (2024), "**Product Attribute and Heterogeneous Sentiment Analysis-Based Evaluation to Support Online Personalized Consumption Decisions**", *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1109/TEM.2024.3413999>

Chunjia, H. (2024), "**Research on the matching effect between advertising appeal and product type on the purchase intention of organic food**", 2024, *British Food Journal*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1108/BFJ-11-2023-1016>

Chunjia, H. (2024), "**Risk disclosure and entrepreneurial resource acquisition in crowdfunding digital platforms: Evidence from digital technology ventures**", *Information Processing & Management*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ipm.2024.103655>

Chunjia, H. (2024), "**Unveiling the Evolution of Enterprise Digital Innovation Strategies: Insights From U.S.-Listed Companies' Annual Reports**", *IEEE*

Transactions on Computational Social Systems. DOI:

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Chunjia, H. (2024), "**Warmth trumps competence? Uncovering the influence of multimodal AI anthropomorphic interaction experience on intelligent service evaluation: Insights from the high-evoked automated social presence**",

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Colovic, A., Caloffi, A., Rossi, F. and M. Russo (2024) [\*\*Institutionalising the digital transition: the role of digital innovation intermediaries\*\*](#), *Research Policy*, 54(1).

De Silva, M., Paunov, C., Planes-Satorra, S. and Peñalosa, P. (2023) [\*\*Unlocking co-creation for green innovation: 10 international case studies\*\*](#). OECD. ISSN 23074957

De Silva, M., Rossi, F., and N. Searle (2024) [\*\*How do firms shape their interactions with universities to build structural, human and relational capital? A mixed-method study of UK firms that interact with universities\*\*](#), *Journal of Technology Transfer*, in press.

Fragkandreas, T. (2025) **Case study research on innovation systems: paradox, dialectical analysis, and resolution**, *Research Policy* (in press).

Frenz, M. and Ietto-Gillies, G. (2024) [\*\*Indicators of absorptive capacity. Conceptual framework and estimates for 25 countries and 24 UK sectors\*\*](#). *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics*, ISSN 0954-349X.

Georgakakis, D., Souitaris, V., Cannella Jr, A. A., Kalogeraki, O., & Peng, G. (2024). **Changing ideological regimes: CEO succession with a shift in political ideology and new CEO early departure**. *Journal of Management Studies*.

Koliouris, I., Al-Surmi, A. and Bashiri, M., 2024. [\*\*Artificial intelligence and policy making: can small municipalities enable digital transformation?\*\*](#) *International Journal of Production Economics*, p.109324.



Lawton Smith, H. (2024) [\*\*The triple helix model and working with Loet Leyesdorff.\*\*](#) *Triple Helix* 10 (2), pp. 188-195. ISSN 2197-1927.

Potter, J. and Lawton Smith, H. (2024) [\*\*Applying the entrepreneurial ecosystem concept to regional entrepreneurship policy analysis - a critique.\*\*](#) In: Huggins, R. and Thompson, P. and Kitagawa, F. and Theodoraki, C. and Prokop, D. (eds.) *Entrepreneurial ecosystems in cities and regions: Emergence, Evolution and Future*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780192866264.

Rossi, F. (2023) [\*\*The Value of Multidisciplinarity in University Research Collaborations\*\*](#), Innovation Caucus (2023) [Full report](#) ; [Policy briefing](#)

Rossi, F., De Silva, M., Pavone, P., Rosli, A., and N. Yip (2024) [\*\*Proximity and impact of university-industry collaborations. A topic detection analysis of impact reports\*\*](#), Technological Forecasting and Social Change, 205

Rossi, F.; Baines, N., Kemp, L., Wilson, E. (2024) [\*\*REF 2021: Research Impact and the Arts and Culture Sectors\*\*](#), NCACE, 2024

Smith, R. (2024) **Issues in Measuring Defence Output: A Review**. Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence Discussion Paper, KCL, 2024-06

Smith, R. (2024) **Econometric aspects of convergence: a survey**, Open Economies Review, 2024, 35(4) p701-721.

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## BOOK CHAPTERS

Butkevičienė, J. and Lawton Smith, H. (2024). **University involvement in supporting entrepreneurship of people with disabilities** Chapter 8.2 in A. Šilenskytė and S.M.Toth (eds) *The Palgrave Handbook of Social Sustainability in Business Education* Basingstoke:Palgrave; Potter

Potter, J. and Lawton Smith, H. (2024). **Applying the entrepreneurial ecosystems concept to regional entrepreneurship policy analysis – a critique** Chapter 28 in R.Huggins, F. Kitagawa, D. Prokop, C. Theodoraki and P. Thompson (eds) *Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in Cities and Regions* Oxford:OUP

## REPORTS AND POLICY BRIEFS

De Silva, Muthu and Dimos, C. (2024) [The UK's intersectoral mobility landscape: trends and economic impacts.](#) London, UK: Birkbeck University.

Rossi, F., Kemp, L., Weeks, J., Baines, N., Wilson, E. (2024) [Small and specialist arts institutions and the Knowledge Exchange Framework](#) NCACE

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## CIMR WORKING PAPERS 2024

The objective of the CIMR Working Papers is to publicise research being done by its academics, PhD students, Research fellows, Visiting fellows, Stakeholders and visitors.

The CIMR Working Papers series can be found on [Repec](#) and [BIROn](#).

**WP 68** - Filippetti, Andrea and Vezzani, A. (2024) [Civil society organizations and public policy](#). Working Paper. Birkbeck, University of London, London, UK.

**WP 67** - Tojonirinarisoa Nomenjanahary Ravelosaona (2024) [Integration of small-scale farmers into innovation management within contract farming companies in developing countries](#) Working Paper. Birkbeck, University of London, London, UK.

**WP 69** - Tuzi, F. and Filippetti, Andrea (2024) [Public procurement to address biodiversity loss: a first attempt at European mapping](#). Working Paper. CIMR, Birkbeck, University of London, London, UK.

**WP 70** - Zecchinelli, R. and Rossi, Federica (2024) [Emerging business models for digital innovation intermediaries: evidence from the Digital Innovation Hubs Initiative](#). Working Paper. CIMR, Birkbeck, University of London, London, UK.

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## CIMR PHD STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS

Currently there are some twenty PhD students and alumni within the Department of Management involved with CIMR. Their details are listed on the [CIMR website](#).

PhD students and alumni are invited to attend CIMR workshops, to submit working papers, to help organise events – sometimes as paid research assistants to CIMR, and to be speakers in CIMR events. These provide the main opportunities for networking and social activities.

## NEW CIMR TEAM (PHD STUDENT, ALUMNI AND VISITING FELLOW)

CIMR welcomed [Milica Bozanic](#) as Alumni Student of CIMR during the Spring Term 2024. Milica has been leading various film industry initiatives under the flag of the Serbia Film Commission aimed at the development of the creative ecosystem in her home country. Throughout her professional tenure, she initiated the Computer Graphics and Arts Conference Belgrade and served on the Board of Directors at the European Film Commissions Network. As a Chevening scholar, she was awarded an MSc in Management and Creative Industries at Birkbeck in 2023. Within the dissertation at Birkbeck, her focus expanded on

Central and East Europe within the theoretical framework which addressed FDI research and creative Global Production Networks. Her research interest contributes to creative industry economics and bridging the gap between theory and practice with a focus on quantitative research for informed policymaking.



[Full dissertation available here](#)



CIMR welcomed [Tahani Ibrahim Alharbi, PhD](#) as Alumni Student of CIMR during the Spring Term 2024. Tahani is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Administration at the Faculty of Economics and Management, King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. She obtained her PhD degree from Birkbeck, University of London in 2023. Her thesis focused on Leader Identity Construction among Saudi Women Academics, specifically exploring the role of readiness in shaping their leadership identities. With research interests in academic leadership, gender studies, and identity, Dr.



Alharbi adopts a multidisciplinary approach in her work. Her expertise lies in examining the experiences and challenges faced by women in leadership positions within the Saudi Arabian context. Through her research, she aims to contribute to the understanding and promotion of gender equality and inclusive leadership practices.

CIMR welcomed **Eglė Sadauskaitė** as Alumni Student of CIMR during the Summer Term 2024. Eglė is an accomplished professional specializing in innovation within the financial services sector. She holds an MSc in Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship from Birkbeck, University of London, where she graduated with distinction. Her thesis, which explored co-creation for sustainability in technology, was highly commended. Eglė is also



actively involved in supporting early careers, co-founding the Barclays Innovation Bootcamp and the Barclays Creative Horizons program. Her academic credentials are further bolstered by executive education in fintech from Saïd Business School, University of Oxford. Outside her professional pursuits, Eglé is passionate about video games and closely follows industry developments.

CIMR welcomed **Nurultania Molok** as PhD Student of CIMR during the Autumn Term 2024. Nurultania is a PhD candidate at Birkbeck's Centre for Innovation Management Research (CIMR). Her research focuses on digital transformation and innovation management, particularly in small and medium enterprises (SMEs). As a recent Master's graduate from Birkbeck, her work explores the effectual impact of digital platformisation and superapps, drawing on her Southeast Asian background where superapps thrive in the region's digital economy. When she's not working on her research, Nurultania loves drawing anime and writing fiction, combining creativity and imagination with her passion for innovation.



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# INNOVATION TEACHING IN CIMR

CIMR staff are engaged in research-led teaching to undergraduates, postgraduates and professionals. Teaching of entrepreneurship is a particular strength. CIMR faculty are experts in entrepreneurship and innovation. Drawing on our expertise, Birkbeck offers a range of entrepreneurship courses to undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) students, both as curricular and extra-curricular.

[Teaching – Centre for Innovation Management Research \(bbk.ac.uk\)](https://bbk.ac.uk)

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*Helen Lawton Smith, Marion Frenz, Federica Rossi and Gabriella Losito*

January 2024

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