

# BIRKBECK CENTRE FOR INNOVATION MANAGEMENT RESEARCH

## ANNUAL REPORT 2025

BIRKBECK



**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 policymaking (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 Business School, however all PhD students who are supervised by CIMR academic staff are invited to attend – e.g. those in the School for Computing and Mathematical Science and the School of Natural Science.

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

**Affiliate Members** are colleagues who have expressed an interest in becoming part of the CIMR community and who will bring new insights and networks.

**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 Odile Janne, Ms Jo Magnani and Milica Božanić (Alumni Co-ordinators)
- Ms Emma Palmer Foster (PhD Co-ordinator)
- Professor Carlo Milana and Professor Klaus Nielsen (CIMR Working Paper co-editors)
- Ms Jacqueline Winstanley (CIMR Entrepreneur in Residence)

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

2025 was a productive and fulfilling year. Particularly enjoyable has been the return to normality of meeting in person at our own events and at those with which CIMR has been associated. Of the 11 events we organised and took part in as a Centre, seven were hybrid and four were online only.

Many of our events involve our international partners, thus, consolidating CIMR's global presence. We continue to collaborate with universities in Finland (Vaasa), Sweden (Lund), Spain (Barcelona UIC), Italy (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia) and in the US Washington DC (American University). In the UK, we work with colleagues at Westminster University through our Associate Director, Thanos Fragkandreas, increasingly with Brunel as well as with Warwick and Birmingham Universities and with the NCACE.

Highlights have been the fourth Sustainability Workshop, Vaasa, (June 9-10<sup>th</sup>) organised by Professor Martin Meyer. Our thanks to Martin for organising this wonderful event. The joint Regional Studies Association, Westminster University and CIMR Early Career event (September 9-10<sup>th</sup>) was held at Westminster University. We thank Westminster University for sponsoring the event for hosting it and providing catering and the Regional Studies Association (RSA) for the organisation. We thank colleagues at Brunel for their excellent contributions to the day. There will be a follow-up event organised between Brunel and CIMR in March 2026.

We have had to adapt to the reality of a new website now managed by the Birkbeck web team. We could not renew the contract of our media engagement officer, Gabi Losito, but we are continuing to look for funding to be able to pay her on a flexible

basis. The new website does not enable us to post blogs. Instead, all of our latest blogs can now be found on LinkedIn.

Other changes this year is that we are more student facing and that we have a new category of member. We take pleasure in the enterprise of our Masters students which we publish on a new page on our website – please see features on Kasuni Chamudika and Joel Carlos. Our new category of affiliate members brings more junior scholars into the CIMR community. These are colleagues at Birkbeck and at other universities who have expressed an interest in working with us. We also welcomed four new Visiting Fellows. All will enrich our research and impact portfolio.

CIMR's members are noted for their excellence in their research and impact related activity. Our annual report details numerous examples of how CIMR people deliver insights into academic discourses and to applied arenas.

We have a wonderful team at CIMR. My thanks to the directorate Marion, Federica, Thanos and of course Gabi. We thank Carlo and Klaus (working paper editors); Odile, Jo and Milica (alumni co-ordinators); Emma (PhD-coordinator) and Jacqueline Winstanley, CIMR Entrepreneur in Residence.

Finally, we celebrate the arrival of Gabriella and Giuseppe's new baby, Matteo, born on 13th November. In the words of Thanos, "Matteo is officially our first CIMR Baby Fellow".

Professor Helen Lawton Smith, *Director of CIMR January 2026*

## NEWS AND APPOINTMENTS

**Nicola Searle** was appointed to the Bristol-Bath Cybersecurity Centre for Doctoral Training External Advisory Group

## EXTERNAL GRANTS

### **Muthu De Silva**

Mission-oriented Co-creation

Lead Consultant: The Working Party on Innovation and Technology Policy (TIP)

OECD 2025/2026

### **Marion Frenz**

Quantifying the Economic Value of Accreditation Services

Irish National Accreditation Board September 2025 to December 2025

### **Federica Rossi**

Manufacturing companies in Emilia-Romagna (Italy) and the challenge of sustainable innovation, Dipartimento di Economia 'Marco Biagi', Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia

December 2024 to December 25

### **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 2025 to December 2025

## BIRKBECK GRANTS

### **Helen Lawton Smith, Federica Rossi and Marion Frenz**

CIMR Media Engagement

Birkbeck Faculty of Business and Law, Impact Grant

January 2025 – July 2025

# KEYNOTES, INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

## **Daniele Archibugi**

The V Report on Research and Innovation in Italy, co-coordinated by Daniele Archibugi, Emanuela Reale and Fabrizio Tuzi, was presented in Rome on 3 Novembre 2025. The presentation was widely discussed by televisions and media.

Daniele Archibugi attended the Forum Innovation of the Research Network on Innovation in Paris, October 13-16 2025, where he has presented his policy-oriented research on "Building the Technological Competences for a European Renaissance". Daniele Archibugi has presented the same research at Malaga Conference on Industry Innovation in Malaga, 23-24 October 2025.

## **Muthu De Silva**

Invited Speaker of the London Conference 2025: Decarbonising London: the final five years. [Link for more details](#). 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

Chair of the session, Innovation without Borders: Beyond Geography to Regional, Global, and Digital Frontiers of the event Place Matters: Unlocking Growth through Research and Innovation held on the 7th of October at The Shard, London. Panel members - Dr. Lorena Rivera Leon, Senior Economist and co-editor of the Global Innovation Index, Composite Indicator Research Section, Department for Economics and Data Analytics, World Intellectual Property Organization; Paul Ceely, Director of Technology, Quantum and Emerging Tech, Digital Catapult; Laura Smith, Knowledge Exchange Manager at Business Connect, Innovate UK -UKRI

Invited Speaker of Student & Early Career Conference organized by the CIMR, Westminster University and the Regional Studies Association on the 9th-10th September 2025.

Keynote Speaker of [Word Intellectual Property Organization](#)'s strategic planning meetings hosted by WIPO's Director General held in June 25-26, 2025.

Panel Speaker OECD "[Bridging the Gap: Frontier Technologies and the Diffusion Dilemma](#)" Session 5. Complementarities and trade-offs between technology development and diffusion in the STI policy mix. Chair: Tiago Santos Pereira, Director of the Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra and Chair of the OECD TIP Working Party, Portugal, Panellists: Muthu de Silva, Professor in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Birkbeck, University of London; Marzenna Weresa, Professor of Economics at the SGH Warsaw School of Economics and Chairperson at the Committee of Economic Sciences, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland; Florence Benoit, Economist and Policy Analyst at the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), European Commission; Osorio Coelho Guimaraes, Director of Innovation Programs (DEPIN) at MCTI and Acting Secretary of the Secretariat of Technological Development and Innovation (SETEC), Brazil. On the 18th of June 2025.

Chair of the [Organization Science Paper Development workshop](#), jointly organized by Birkbeck, University of London, Innovation and Research Caucus, AoM TIM Division and Organization Science Journal held on the 16th of June 2025 at Birkbeck, University of London. Panelists: Prof Chengwei Liu, Imperial College Business School; Prof Grace Augustine, University of Bath School of Management; Prof Keyvan Vakili, London School of Business; Prof Stefano Brusoni, ETH Zurich; and Prof Tobias Kretschmer, Imperial College Business School

Chair of the Webinar "[Transition from Projects to Missions](#)" jointly organised by Innovation & Research Caucus and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) held on the 11th of June.

Speaker at the roundtable organized by the London Research and Policy Partnership (LRaPP) to explore the opportunities for London, and other regions, emerging from the Government's industrial strategy and devolution agenda for research, development, and innovation. She presented on Mission-oriented Co-creation. The event was held on the 12th of February 2025.

### **Thanos Fragkandreas**

Fragkandreas, T. (2025). *Innovation and Regional Inequality: Is There a World Beyond Empirical Regularities?* Paper presentation at the 19th Regional Innovation Policies Annual Conference, University of Venice, October 23-24, Venice, Italy.

Fragkandreas, T. (2025). *When Does a Regional Innovation System Shape Inequality?* Paper presentation at the Regional Studies Association Annual Conference, May 6-9, Porto, Portugal.

Fragkandreas, T. (2025). *Is the Linear Model of Innovation Actually Dead? A Topic-Sentiment Analysis of Policy Documents*. Paper presentation at the 5th Workshop of the Global Economic Policy Group, University of Westminster, May 21, London, UK.

Fragkandreas, T. (2025). *When Does an Innovation System Induce Inequality?* Paper presentation at the School of Marketing and Management Annual Conference, University of Westminster, May 21, London, UK.

Fragkandreas, T. (2025). *Was Schumpeter a Marxist?* Paper presentation at the 1st Critical Innovation Studies Workshop, University of Westminster, May 28, London, UK.

Co-organiser of the 1st Critical Innovation Studies Workshop. Professor Helen Lawton Smith (CIMR, Birkbeck, University of London) and Professor Theo Papaioannou (Innogen, The Open University) were also co-organisers. Papers presented at this workshop will be included in a special issue of *Prometheus* on *Reimagining the Critical in Critical Innovation Studies*. The workshop was held at the University of Westminster on May 28.

Co-organiser of the Annual Regional Studies Association Early Career Conference, University of Westminster, September 9-10, London, UK.

Invited talk, *"Opening Pandora's Box of Inequality in Innovation Systems,"* PhD Study Group, School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London, September 27, London, UK.

Invited guest talk, *"Publishing a Single-Authored 4 Paper on Innovation: Challenges and Insights,"* Entrepreneurship Research Group Seminar, University of Westminster, April 2025.

### **Chunjia Han**

Research Seminar, China West Normal University, 2025.November

Research Seminar, Sichuan University, 2025.November

Research Seminar, Shanxi University of Finance and Economics, July

Presentation at the 12th International Conference on Cultural Management, July

Presentation at the 2025 Symposium and Workshop of Interactive Marketing, July

Presentation at the 2025 Jilin University International Conference on Innovation & Entrepreneurship, July

Presentation at the 7th International Creative Management Conference and Forum of Education Innovation on Cultural Industries Courses, City University of Macao, June

Research Seminar, Huaqiao University, June

### **Helen Lawton Smith**

Lawton Smith, H, and Winstanley, J, (2025) book launch *A Seat at the Table* Regional Studies Association Conference, London November 13 2025.

Lawton Smith, H (2025) Keynote presentation *University Entrepreneurial Ecosystems: Addressing the Grand Societal Challenges of Inequality and Sustainability* The 4th International Workshop on Global Sustainable Innovation: Towards Sustainable Business, Energy and Society, Innolab, University of Vaasa, June 9-10 2025

Lawton Smith, H (2025) Panellist in Panel discussion: Juha Kytölä (the Director of R&D and Engineering at Wärtsilä) (Guest speaker) and Gary Knight (Willamette University) The 4th International Workshop on Global Sustainable Innovation: Towards Sustainable Business, Energy and Society, Innolab, University of Vaasa, June 9-10 2025

Lawton Smith, H (2025) Paper presentation *HEIs' Missions, Graduate Labour Markets and Regional Economic Development* (with Bill O'Gorman and Richard Hayes) Regional Studies Association International Conference, Porto May 7-19

Lawton Smith, H (2025). Co-hosted a panel on *Becoming a Geographer* with Professor Kevin Cox (Ohio State) and was a panellist at the Association of American geographers Annual Conference, Detroit March 24-28 2025

Lawton Smith, H. and Bagchi-Sen, S. (2025) *Networks, location and disability entrepreneurship*. Presentation in session on Entrepreneurship, innovation systems and inclusion Session organiser) at the Association of American geographers Annual Conference, Detroit March 24-28 2025

Speaker on *Creating Value through Active Engagement with Alumni and Students: the case of CIMR* Presentation at the Birkbeck Research centres monthly seminar series, organised by Muthu De Silva

### **Klaus Nielsen**

Organizer of conference session (Play the Game conference, Tampere Finland, 5-8 October 2025): "Financial mismanagement in sport: Examining the application and use of the Soft Budget Constraint approach"

Conference paper (Play the Game conference, Tampere Finland, 5-8 October 2025): "Why does sporting success lead to financial collapse in some cases and not in others? Recent developments in European Women's handball"

Conference paper (Play the Game conference, Tampere Finland, 5-8 October 2025): "Elite sport in the Nordic Countries: A Comparative Analysis of Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Sweden"

Lecture at York University, 1 December 2025: Global Business of Sport

Key-note at CARMA seminar at Aalborg University, Denmark, 17 December 2025: "How has the Scandinavian Model of Political Economy changed in recent decades. Does it even exist any longer"

### **Emma Palmer Foster**

Understanding how heterogenous bioscience park stakeholders influence regional innovation systems Regional Studies Association Annual Conference  
May 6-9, 2025, Porto, Portugal

Understanding how heterogenous bioscience park stakeholders influence regional innovation systems Joint CIMR, Westminster and RSA 2025 Student and Early Career Conference, September 9-10, London, UK

### **Ian Reid**

Ian Reid was invited 13 August 2025 to post an accessible blog based on his work to date on hi-tech clusters on the Open University International Development and Inclusive Innovation / Innovation Knowledge Development website: 'Stuff you were afraid to ask about hi-tech clusters. Click for the link [here](#).

Participated in the Innovation and Research Caucus 'Place Matters: Unlocking Growth through Research and Innovation' event at the Shard, London, on 9 October 2025.

Presented (scene set) and facilitated discussions re hi-tech clusters at the Midlands Quantum Cluster Event at the Exchange, Birmingham, on 21 October 2025.

In addition to his PGR role in Economics at the Open University, he was appointed in December Industry Professor of Adoption of Emerging Technologies, University of Birmingham.

### **Federica Rossi**

"The relationship between sustainable and collaborative innovation: evidence from companies in the Emilia-Romagna region", Società Italiana di Economia, Napoli, Italy, 23-25 October 2025

"Manufacturing companies and the challenge of sustainable innovation in the Emilia-Romagna region: a relational perspective", Associazione Italiana di Scienze Regionali, Pescara, Italy, 10-12 September 2025

"Addressing Grand Challenges through transdisciplinary arts and culture research: the role of stakeholder involvement", R&D Management Conference, Pisa, Italy, 28 June-2 July 2025

"Determinants of International Research Collaborations in Academic Health Centres: evidence from Italian IRCCS", Invited seminar, Politecnico di Milano, Italy, 10 February 2025

"Le imprese manifatturiere emiliane e la sfida dell'innovazione sostenibile (SUSTAINABLE-EMILIA)", Invited seminar, Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia, 27 May 2025

"Cultural Institutions and Universities: Collaborating for Transformative Societal Impact", Evidence Cafe & CIMR Debate in Public Policy, 9 October 2025

"Digital technologies and sustainability transition of ecosystems operating in global value chains", iBegin Conference, Politecnico di Milano, Italy, 9-10 May 2025

### **Jacqueline Winstanley**

February 14 2025 Guest Speaker at Entrepreneurship Training Programme for People with Disabilities - University of Malta - Leoni Baldacchino, Margaret Manion & Thomas Cooney - FPEI training programme

July 1 2025 Beyond the Office? Disabled workers' experiences of remote and hybrid work - Lancaster University - JW Panelist Jacqueline – who organised it and why?

September 17 2025 National Association of Disabled Staff Networks (NADSN), White Paper Launch - London - Building Inclusion for Disabled Researchers in Science.

# CIMR EVENTS 2025

## 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

January 22, 2025

**Techno-Nationalism and Geopolitical Risk – Prospects for the US/China relationship**

[YouTube Event Video link](#)

[Event blog link](#)

**Introduction:** Marion Frenz, Birkbeck, University of London

**Speakers:** Bengt Åke Lundvall, Aalborg University, Denmark; Xiaming Liu, Birkbeck, University of London; John Diamondopoulos, Birkbeck, University of London

**Discussant:** Klaus Nielsen, Chair: Birgitte Andersen, Big Innovation Centre

February 19, 2025

**Researching innovation: governance and institutions**

[YouTube Event video link](#) & [Event blog link](#)

**Speaker:** Giovanni Barbato, University of Milan Discussants: Fumi Kitagawa, University of Birmingham and Marc Cowling, Oxford Brookes University,

**Chair:** Muthu De Silva, Birkbeck University of London

May 14, 2025

**Expanding Technological Indicators for Biodiversity and Environmental Sustainability**

[YouTube Event video link](#) & [Event blog link](#)

**Speakers:** Viviana D'Angelo, Italian National Research Council; Fabrizio Tuzi, Senior Researcher at Institute on Regional Studies – Italian National Research Council; Andrea Filippetti, Senior Research Fellow, Italian National Research Council.

**Discussants:** Daniele Archibugi, Birkbeck, CIMR and Helen Lawton Smith, Birkbeck, CIMR.

**Chair:** Marion Frenz, Birkbeck, CIMR

May 28, 2025

### **1st Critical Innovation Studies Workshop**

[Event blog link](#)

**Co-organiser** Dr Thanos Fragkandreas, University of Westminster & CIMR, Birkbeck University of London; Professor Helen Lawton Smith, CIMR, Birkbeck University of London; Professor Theo Papaioannou, Innogen, Open University; Professor Stuart MacDonald, General Editor of Prometheus & Leicester University

Paper presentations for possible submission to special issue of Prometheus on Reimagining the Critical in Critical Innovation Studies.

Held at University of Westminster.

June 3, 2025

### **Uncertainty and Enterprise**

[Event blog link](#)

**Speakers:** Prof Amar Bhidé; Prof Kamalini Ramdas

**Chair:** Prof Gylfi Zoega Jointly organised with the Department of Economics

June 25, 2025

### **Bridging Research and Innovation: Deep-Tech Solutions for Global Challenges**

**Speakers:** Ronaldo Pedro, Founder & Principal Investigator, NanoBusiness & ConvergeLab, Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) and Malu Junco, ConvergeLab Project Specialist, STEM Policy Communicator, Dual Majors, Economics and Biotechnology in Integrated Science Scholar at Claremont McKenna College.

**Chair:** Filipe Martins Gomez

September 9-10, 2025

### **Creating opportunities for future generations of scholars and leaders**

#### **RSA Student and Early Career Conference**

[YouTube Event video link](#)

Joint event organised by the Regional Studies Association, University of Westminster, and Centre for Innovation Management Research, Birkbeck, University of London with strong support from Brunel University, Held at University of Westminster

October 9, 2025

**NCACE Evidence Café 15 - Collaborative Research Between Universities and Cultural Institutions: Achieving Transformative Impact**

Joint NCACE and CIMR workshop

**Speakers:** Dr Ning Baines, Lecturer in Marketing - University of Leicester and Dr Federica Rossi, Associate Professor of Economic Policy - University of Modena and Reggio Emilia; Cross-sector collaboration, transformation and wider societal value Sarah Campbell, Associate Director for Arts and Culture – University of Exeter; Joanna Norman, Director of the V&A Research Institute, National Art Library and Archives – V&A; Ailsa Roberts, Research Manager - National Galleries of Scotland; Evelyn Wilson, Co-Director – NCACE;

**Respondent:** Helen Lawton Smith

**Event Chairs:** Evelyn Wilson (Co-Director, NCACE) and Dr Laura Kemp (Senior Manager, NCACE)

October 22, 2025

**The Role of Trust in Shaping Employee Experiences with Generative AI**

**Speakers:** Vasco Vicini, Khepri, Suntera Group, Financial Services; Adebisi Adewusi, Technopolis Group, Research and Consulting Organization; Prof Frederic Marimon, International University of Catalonia.

**Discussant:** Saverio Romeo, Birkbeck, CIMR and Westminster University.

**Chair:** Prof Marta Mas Machuca, International University of Catalonia

November 17, 2025

**Leveraging the Diaspora in cocreation and economic development**

[Event blog link](#)

**Speakers:** Eugene Nizeyimana, African Business Chamber, Semhar Araia, Diaspora Academy, Washington DC; Brett Gilbert, American University, Washington DC, Muthu De Silva Birkbeck, University of London;

**Chair:** Alex Till, Menta

## OTHER WORKSHOPS AND PANEL EVENTS FEATURING CIMR COLLEAGUES

June 9/10, 2025

### **4th International Conference on Global, Sustainable Innovation: Towards Sustainable Business, Energy and Society**

#### **[YouTube Event video link](#)**

Organised by Professor Martin Meyer, Innolab, University of Vaasa Representatives from our industrial partners offered practice perspectives via impulse lectures and a scene-setting panel to open the conference. Juha Kytölä, Director of R&D and Engineering at Wärtsilä, CTO of the year 2023, shared his perspective in the opening session in an interview with our keynote speakers.

#### **Opening and closing keynote speakers**

- Gary Knight, Willamette University, President, Academy of International Business
- Helen Lawton Smith, CIMR, Birkbeck University of London, UK;
- Darren Dalcher, Lancaster University Management School, Lancaster University UK;

#### **Plenary speakers and contributors:**

- Filippo di Pietro, Facultad de Ciencias Económicas y Empresariales, Universidad de Sevilla, Spain, & Kevin Campbell, Stirling Business School, Scotland, "Factors affecting the pace of transition to low carbon energy systems"
- Jie Wu, University of Aberdeen, Africa-Asia Centre for Sustainability, "Innovation Strategies for New Capabilities and Sustainability in the Digital Age"
- Jouni K Juntunen, University of Vaasa, InnoLab, "Configuring partnership portfolios for enhanced ESG performance: A QCA analysis"
- Martin Meyer, University of Vaasa, InnoLab, "Absorptive capacity for international talent – towards a research agenda"
- Tomasz Mroczkowski, American University, Kogod School of Business, "The Multipolar world economy of 2035"
- Tommi Lehtonen, University of Vaasa, School of Marketing & Communications and InnoLab, "Ethics of genetically modified biofuels"
- Anupam Dutta, University of Vaasa, InnoLab, School of Accounting & Finance, and InnoLab, "Climate risk and clean water investments: Implications for sustainable development"
- Zaheer Khan, University of Aberdeen & University of Vaasa, "Entrepreneurial ecosystems as boundary spanners in supporting internationalisation"

[YouTube Event video link](#)

# CIMR RESEARCH BLOGS

## [Expanding Technological Indicators for Biodiversity and Environmental Sustainability](#)

By CIMR (May 2025)

## [Innovation, Inclusivity, and Impact: CIMR at the RSA Annual Conference 2025](#)

By Helen Lawton Smith (May 2025)

## [Generative AI in SMEs – the role of trust](#)

By Marion Frenz (June 2025)

## [Determinants of crowdsourcing openness in high-urgency conditions](#)

By Federica Rossi (June 2025)

## [NCACE/CIMR Evidence Café: Collaborative research between universities and cultural institutions-achieving transformative impact](#)

By Federica Rossi (October 2025)

## [Leveraging the diaspora in cocreation and economic development: the dream team](#)

By Helen Lawton Smith (December 2025)

## [Policy challenges in the era of digitalization and AI. An approach inspired by Federico Caffè](#)

By Grazia Ietto-Gillies (December 2025)

# CIMR NEWS BLOGS

## [Exploring Universities' Economic Impact: Matteo Capriolo's Academic Journey and Collaboration with CIMR](#)

By CIMR and Matteo Capriolo (March 2025)

## [Entrepreneurship and opportunity: speaking out on disabled entrepreneurship to the Welsh Government](#)

By Jacqueline Winstanley and Helen Lawton Smith (March 2025)

**Spatial Inequality and Innovation: a reflection on of the Association American Geographers (AAG) Annual Conference, 24-28 March 2025**

By Helen Lawton Smith (April 2025)

**The Future of Technological Leadership: Insights from Nations in the Technological Race to 2030**

By CIMR (May 2025)

**Deep-Tech Solutions for Global Challenges: insights from our latest CIMR Debate**

By Helen Lawton Smith (June 2025)

**Towards Sustainable Business, Energy and Society: a reflection on the 4th International Workshop on Global Sustainable Innovation (9-10 June)**

By Helen Lawton Smith (June 2025)

**Exploring Uncertainty and Enterprise: Insights from CIMR's Latest Seminar**

By Helen Lawton Smith (June 2025)

**Celebrating Excellence in Peer Review: Helen Lawton Smith Receives the 2025 RSA Best Referee Regional Studies Award**

By CIMR (June 2025)

**Rethinking Innovation: a reflection on the 1st Critical Innovation Studies Workshop**

By Thanos Fragkandreas, Theo Papaioannou and Helen Lawton Smith (June 2025)

**Creating Opportunities for Future Generations of Scholars and Leaders**

By Helen Laton Smith and Thanos Fragkandreas (September 2025)

**A Seat at the Table: Official Book launch at the RSA Regional Futures Conference London November 13-14, 2025**

By Helen Lawton Smith and Jacqueline Winstanley (November 2025)

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



**Colette Henry and Jonathan Potter** took part in the Launch in Paris of OECD-GWEP Bridging the Finance Gap for Women Entrepreneurs: Insights from Academic and Policy Research November 3 and 4 2025 [ICSB Signature Events – Paris | ICSB | International Council for Small Business](#)



**Federica Rossi** is co-supervising a PhD student together with a company (Krones, an MNE in the mechanical engineering industry, developing packaging machines for the agrifood sector) on the economics and management of Corporate Innovation Hubs. It is expected that this PhD will have impact on management practice.

The **National Enterprise Network (NEN)** published a Positioning Paper: [Who Supports the Supporters?](#)

**Jacqueline Winstanley** provided written evidence March 28 2025 The Women and Equalities Committee Call for Evidence: Barriers and Opportunities for Female Entrepreneurship in the UK, and on September 11 2025 submitted Evidence to the House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee - Employment Support for Disabled People on how to improve the job prospects of disabled people and is calling for the views of disabled people, employers, and experts.

**Jacqueline Winstanley and Helen Lawton Smith** provided Written evidence to Welsh Parliament Equality and Social Justice Committee [Anything's Achievable with the Right Support: Tackling the Disability Employment Gap](#) March 2025 (reference DE 31).

### **Jacqueline Winstanley**

Jacqueline provides the secretariat for the APPG for Innovative and Inclusive Entrepreneurship.

**Jacqueline and Shani Dhandi** as co-founders launched the Access to Work Collective in May 2025. The Collective is a community of more than 5,000 people, including disabled people, organisations, employers, researchers, service providers, policymakers, and allies. Together, as all the stakeholders of Access to Work, the Collective is calling for immediate intervention to reform the Access to Work scheme. On October 15 the Collective's open letter with over 17,500 signatories was delivered to Prime Minister Keir Starmer [Our open letter](#). The programme of work which will result in a report includes a survey, focus groups and interviews.

In 2025 **Jacqueline** took part in nearly 50 policy orientated events as a panellist, speaker and competition judge.

# 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, McNeeley, C, L. Winstanley, J and Seyyide Kaptaner, Demirhan, A. (2025) *A seat at the table: A place for disabled entrepreneurs and innovators* Regional Studies Policy Impact book London: Routledge

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

### Daniele Archibugi

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Archibugi, Daniele and Tosoni, N. (2025) [Is users rating becoming overpowering? The risks of inappropriate use of digital feedback.](#) *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, pp. 1-15. ISSN 0144-333X.

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### Muthu De Silva

De Silva, M., Rossi, F., and Paunov, C. (2025) Managing multi-stakeholder co-creation to address Grand Challenges: the role of paradox management capabilities. *Research Policy*.

Hafeez, S., Shahzad, K. and De Silva, M (2025) Enhancing digital transformation in SMEs: the dynamic capabilities of innovation intermediaries within ecosystems. *Long Range Planning* pp. 102525.

[De Silva, M;](#) [Rossi, F;](#) and Searle, Nicola (2025). 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. The *Journal of Technology Transfer*, 50(4), pp. 1633-1668. ISSN 0892-9912

### **Thanos Fragkandreas**

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Fragkandreas, T., Lawton Smith, H. and Papaioannou, T. (forthcoming). Reimagining the Critical in Critical Innovation Studies – Special Issue. *Prometheus: Critical Studies in Innovation*.

### **Chunjia Han**

“Sailing through uncertainty: The impact of geopolitical risks on technology adoption in U.S. corporations—A corporate culture lens”, 2025, *Technological Forecasting & Social Change*.

“Exploring Human-Machine Collaboration in Metaverse Communities: Utilitarian vs. Hedonic Dimensions in Enhancing User Immersion”, 2025, *Transportation Research Part E*.

“Light trumps Shadow? How Generative AI Agent’s Language Arousal Influences Users’ Interactive Willingness: Evidence from Multi-Modal Analysis”, 2025, *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*.

“Team Experience and ICO Success: An Empirical Study of Entrepreneurs in Blockchain Projects”, 2025, *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*.

“What Is the focus of energy supply chain relationship management during geopolitical risks? Evidence from the stock market based on transaction cost economics”, 2025, *Energy Economics*.

“Psychological distance in the metaverse: user consumption behavior and avatar facial maturity”, 2025, *Management Decision*.

“Addressing consumer needs: effects of firms remediation strategies on satisfaction and brand usage intent in AI-powered voice assistant service failures”, 2025, *International Journal of Information Management*.

"Beyond simple interaction: uncovering the perception-interaction intrinsic mechanism of Generative AI Agents—a multi-modal big data analysis with PLS-SEM and fsQCA.", 2025, *Technology in Society*.

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"The impact of loan risk compensation policy in the short food supply chain: is blockchain-enabled financing more efficient?", 2025, *British Food Journal*.

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### **Ulrich Hilpert**

Hilpert, U. (2025). [Incomplete innovative arrangements: divergent situations and complementary opportunities](#). *European Planning Studies*, 33(8), 1262–1278.

### **Grazia Ietto-Gilles**

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### **Grace Peng**

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### **Jonathan Potter**

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### **Federica Rossi**

Finardi, U., Rossi, F. (2025) [Organisational determinants of international collaborations in clinical research: evidence from Italian research hospitals](#), *Journal of Technology Transfer*.

Caloffi, A., Colovic, A., Rossi, F., Yang, J. and Bagherzadeh, M. (2025), [Determinants of crowdsourcing openness in high-urgency conditions: a configurational approach](#). *R&D Management*.

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[De Silva, M;](#) [Rossi, F;](#) and Searle, Nicola (2025). 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. *The Journal of Technology Transfer*, 50(4), pp. 1633-1668. ISSN 0892-9912

Rossi, F., Baines, N. and E. Wilson (2024) [Generating societal impact from collaborations between universities and arts and culture organisations \(ACOs\): Evidence from a survey of arts and culture professionals in the UK](#), *Technovation*, 140.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

**Lawton Smith H**, (2025) Advocacy, Innovation and Minority Entrepreneurs. In P. Nijkamp, K.Koourit, K.Haynes and Z Elburz (eds) *Thematic Encyclopedia of Regional Science* Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, August 2025. D.V.2 p. 368

**Lawton Smith, H** (2025) [Innovation policy, equality, diversity and inclusion: supporting enterprise and innovation by people with disabilities](#) Chapter 12 S. Abdul-Rahmen, L.Tuckerman, J.Nelles, J. and T. Vorley (eds) in *Innovation Caucus: Innovations in Innovation Policy* Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

**Klaus Nielsen** *Top sports environment in Scandinavia. Sports science perspectives on development and performance environment*. Nordic Open Access Scholarly Publishing (NOASP), Cappelen Damm Akademisk Publisher, editor Stig Arne Sæther): Elite sport in the Nordic Countries: A Comparative Analysis of Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Sweden

## REPORTS AND POLICY BRIEFS

**De Silva Muthu.**, and Dinckol, Dize (2025) Measuring the Reputational Impact of International R&I Investments [Commissioned by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and UKRI] to be published [Context: Mission-oriented co-creation]

**De Silva, Muthu.**, Abou Hamdan, O., Vorley, T. and Ghorbankhani, Maryam (2025) Champions: transforming projects to work programmes and missions. Innovation and Research Caucus. [Commissioned by UKRI and ESRC] [Context: Mission-oriented co-creation] [Link](#)

**Searle, Nicola.** [Ganglmair, Bernhard; and Borghi, Maurizio](#). 2025. Trusted Research and Innovation: How Knowledge Leakage Affects the Research & Innovation Ecosystem. Technical Report. Innovation & Research Caucus, Oxford.

**Jonathan Potter** directed four OECD reports:

[Bridging the Finance Gap for Women Entrepreneurs | OECD](#)

[The job quality of self-employment in Europe | OECD](#)

[Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Diagnostics | OECD](#)

[Data and methods for entrepreneurial ecosystem diagnostics | OECD](#)

## CIMR WORKING PAPERS 2025

**WP 72 [Generative AI use and employee performance in SMEs. The important role of trust.](#) Marion Frenz, Frederic Marimon, Marta Mas Machuca and Saverio Romeo**

This study explores how generative AI tools affect employee performance in small and medium businesses using the Job Demands-Resources theory and survey data from 465 employees. Findings show that trust in AI tools enhances engagement and reduces exhaustion, with notable differences between small and medium-sized firms, highlighting the importance of fostering trust to maximize AI's workplace benefits.

**WP 71 [Innovation, graduate labour markets and regional economic development.](#) Helen Lawton Smith, Bill O’Gorman and Richard Hayes**

This paper uses Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) (now part of South East Technological University, SETU) in Ireland as a case study to explore the extent to which graduates from HEIs contribute to the innovative capability and capacity in the region in which they are educated.

## CIMR 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. They also participate in teaching. For example: Abdul Alsurmi’s

former student, Yasin Kheradmand, MSc Business Analytics 23/24 graduate was invited as a guest lecturer on 20 November in the Big Data Management module due to his managerial role in analytics and big data with the company he works for the past two years.

Ayo Disu, Octillion Capital Partners , is a regular guest lecturer on the Masters Module, Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

CIMR is increasingly involving Master students in our activities. Many are entrepreneurial, innovative and doing exciting things. CIMR now has a student page on the website which records their experiences. Please see features on Kasuni Chamudika and Joel Carlos [CIMR Students - Birkbeck, University of London](#)

## **NEW CIMR TEAM (PHD STUDENT, ALUMNI, VISITING FELLOWS AND AFFILIATE MEMBERS)**

In 2025, CIMR welcomed four new Visiting Fellows who are long standing colleagues of one or more of our directors. They are Dimitris Assimakopoulos, Burgundy School of Business, [Prof Sanjib Bhakta](#), School of Science, Birkbeck, [Prof Theo Papaioannou](#), Open University and [Dr Abhijit Sengupta](#), University of Surrey.

We also created a new category of member: Affiliate Members. These are people with whom we are forming collaborations and who want to join us in our activities. We currently have four affiliate members: [Mohammed El Amine Abdelli](#), [Poonam Oberoi](#) [Ian Reid](#) and [Manoj Saxena](#)

[People at CIMR - Birkbeck, University of London](#)

# 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://www.bbk.ac.uk/teaching-centre-for-innovation-management-research)



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