

CGR&IS Newsletter (October 2023)

Dear Colleagues,

Hope all is well and that you are all settling into the new academic year!

Here is a brief update on what has been happening in CGR&IS over the last couple of months, and some details of forthcoming activities.

Welcome to new CGR&IS members and associates!

Welcome to **Paddy Bradley MBE** who has been appointed as a **Visiting Industrial Fellow** to the School of Management, and will be associated with CGR&IS. Paddy was the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Swindon and Wiltshire LEP (SWLEP), from 2012 to his retirement in July 2023 and he has extensive experience and knowledge of regional development issues. For many years he has worked with policymakers from across the political divide, civil servants, business leaders and university vice-chancellors and charities at local, regional and national levels. In recent years, Paddy has led SWLEP in developing the UK's first business-led cyber centre and the connection of Swindon and Wiltshire to a global network of cyber operations. Paddy's contribution to public service was recognised with the award of an MBE in the 2023 New Years Honours List.

Welcome aboard Paddy! We look forward to working with you and drawing on your expertise/experiences over the coming months and years!

Welcome also to **Arthur Bao** and **Yi Wu** who join the School and CGR&IS as new PhD students! Arthur is being supervised by Chris Dimos, Mariachiara Barzotto and Phil Tomlinson, and Yi is being supervised by Chris Dimos and Debbie Desrochers. We hope you enjoy your studies here!

Congratulations!

Huge congratulations to **Chris Dimos** who has secured a £130k (FEC: £160K) **UKRI Policy Fellowship** with BEIS/DSIT. The fellowship will last for 18 months, where he will be seconded for a day a week at the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology to better understand the longer-term benefits of government and business investment in Research, Development and Innovation (for instance, on job quality, productivity, and growth) and also on other research areas of priority to the UK Government.

Congratulations also to **Zihan Wang**, who successfully passed her **PhD confirmation viva** with no corrections on 29th September. Zihan's PhD is exploring skills and coworking spaces in lagging regions.

Congratulations to the following CGR&IS members **for recent paper** acceptances:

- Bates, G; Larkin, C; Pearce, N & **Smyth, L** (2023) 'Policy R&D', capacity and advocacy in English Combined Authorities', *Local Economy*
- **Dimos, C, Fai, F.M., Tomlinson, P.R.** (2023) 'The speed of the effects of publicly funded research on business R&D, innovation, and innovation behaviour. Evidence from UK firms'. *British Journal of Management*, DOI: 10.1111/1467-8551.12767

Conference Activities

Chris Dimos will also be representing CGR&IS at the 5th International ZEW Conference on the Dynamics of Entrepreneurship, Mannheim (12-13th October 2023).

On the 3rd October, Felicia Fai, Laura (Smyth) and Phil Tomlinson also attended the annual InterAct Conference 'How do we create the digital manufacturing future we want?', at Savoy Place, London (Details: <https://interact-hub.org/interact-conference-2023/>)

Forthcoming CGR&IS Seminars (November 2023)

A note for your diaries. In November we will be welcoming two seminar speakers to Bath. These seminars will also be hosted via Zoom, and so will be hybrid although, it is always nicer for our guests who are attending in person, to meet people face-to-face. Please do your best to attend on the day, as it is important to welcome and meet our guest speakers on campus.

Also, if you would like to meet/discuss your work and/or ideas or would just like an informal conversation with either/both speakers, then please let us know and we will look to schedule something.

1. Dr Laura Norris (University of Cardiff)

Laura is an IMML alumni (2007), and we are delighted to welcome her back to campus and the new School building.

Title: **Net Zero Challenges in the Maritime Shipping Industry**

Date: **Thursday 16th November 2023**

Time **12:15-13:15 (UK time)**

Room: **10E 3.58**

Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/mrxmuwby>

Abstract: The transition to Net Zero is wrought with challenges, particularly in fostering acceptance and a marketplace for new technologies. In particular, the 'pacing problem', where innovation outstrips the rate at which governments can enact new legislation, is problematic for technologies that have higher costs than fossil-fuel technologies. The MariNH3 research programme is funded by the EPSRC with a multi-disciplinary team seeking to overcome the key technical, economic and social unknowns around disruptive ammonia engine concepts in maritime shipping. The global shipping industry is pursuing a transition to Net Zero and is governed by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) where industry targets are agreed through bureaucratic processes. There is, however, limited legislation supporting the use of alternatives such as ammonia or hydrogen as fuel, with the IMO legislating ships, rather than nations. Therefore, as ships operate in many territorial waters there are significant co-ordination challenges due to multi-scalar legislation and geo-political challenges. Research findings outline some of the key areas where measures would facilitate technology acceptance and details the role of place in Net Zero transitions.

2. Prof Lisa De Propris (University of Birmingham)

Lisa is a world leading expert on regional development and regional policy, and we are delighted to be hosting her.

Title: **People-centred policies for the triple transition (Just, Digital and Green)**

Date: **Tuesday, 21st November 2023**

Time **14:15-15:15 (UK time)**

Room: **10E 3.20**

Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/ye244p3s>

Abstract: In the context of the disruptive technological revolution brought in by a twinned digital and green transition, the skill and competence base of the human capital is expected to radically change with irreversible consequences for the labour market. This paper argues that skills are essential both for the development of new industries and for the structural transformation of existing ones. Indeed, it is argued that to avoid the skill polarisation of the Third Industrial Revolution, policies and investment in competence building must proceed at same pace as investment in new technologies. The paper concludes that place-based education and training processes and more generally people-centred policies are essential for the realisation of a just, digital and green (or triple) transition. The case of the Emilia Romagna region in Italy shows how and what education and training initiatives are important to ensure that the skill base keeps up with the regional structural change, thereby delivering a just transition.

Further details of these seminars will be circulated by email separately.

If you have **speakers, you would like us to invite to conduct a seminar/webinar** over the next few months, please contact Felicia or Phil. Popular speakers fill up their diaries quickly!

That is all for now. Please remember to use the [spreadsheet link](#) to update us on your activities.

Best wishes,

Felicia and Phil

bath.ac.uk/management

Follow us @bathsofm / University of Bath School of Management

