

# Research Staff Conference 2022

## REALISING YOUR POTENTIAL

1<sup>st</sup> December

10 AM – 4 PM

University of Liverpool Management School

#UoLRSCConf



# Research Staff Conference 2022

## Research Staff Association

The [University of Liverpool Research Staff Association](#) was set up in 2018, supported by The Academy. The UoL RSA is run on a voluntary basis *by researchers for researchers*

**Represent** – provide a collective voice for research staff on matters affecting researchers

**Network** – provide a platform for communication and networking for research staff across the University

**Develop** – provide training opportunities for research staff and coordinate central support for researcher development provided locally

**Community** – create a borderless community so researchers can make the most of their time at Liverpool

### ***Inclusivity Statement***

The Academy is committed to providing an environment which recognises and values people's differences, capitalises on the strengths that those differences bring to the institution and supports all staff and students in maximising their potential to succeed. In line with the Academy's firm commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, we offer all postdoctoral and research-related staff opportunities to develop and network irrespective of a researcher's gender, ethnicity, age, self-identification, disability, religious affiliation, or any other criteria used to separate and define **code of conduct**

## Want to get involved?

Getting involved in the RSA is a great experience that offers opportunities for career development and being an active part of the postdoc community. You can find out more information about the RSA [here](#) and [here](#). If you are interested in joining the RSA committee or have any questions about the roles, please chat with one of the Co-Chairs or deputy Co-Chairs at the conference or email [researcher@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:researcher@liverpool.ac.uk). The RSA also welcomes role sharing and those that want to help organise an RSA event, as well as people who can only provide support for a limited time. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more [researchstaffassociation@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:researchstaffassociation@liverpool.ac.uk).



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# Research Staff Conference 2022

## PROGRAM

<b>9:30- 10:00</b>	Arrival/Registration
<b>10:00-10:05</b>	Welcome from RSA Chairs
<b>10:05-10:30</b>	Prof. Anthony Hollander (Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research & Impact) – a comprehensive overview of the research landscape at the University as well as his experience engaging with the public
<b>10:30-10:50</b>	Prof. Georgina Endfield, APVC research environment and postgraduate research – a reflection on the importance of our research environment and culture in supporting colleagues to realise their aspirations and their potential.
<b>10:50-11:05</b>	Break
<b>11:05-11:50</b>	Public engagement and pathways to impact showcase with speakers being researchers from different faculties: Sophie Jones (HSS), Jon Newnham (S&E), and Heather Allison (HLS)
<b>11:50-12:35</b>	Prof Jonathan Tonge (Professor of Politics) – Realising your potential – and enjoying your career!
<b>12:35-13:45</b>	Lunch Break
<b>13:45-14:45</b>	Two parallel workshops facilitated by Prosper and IBM
<b>14:45-15:00</b>	Break
<b>15:00 -16:00</b>	Panel discussion – Building a Better Research Environment
<b>16:00 onwards</b>	Announcement of Images of Research prize winners Close and time to connect

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## Images of Research Competition

Find out more:

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/researcher/research-staff-conference/2022/images-competition/>

All research staff at the University of Liverpool are invited to submit an **image of their research** along with a **150-word abstract** describing their research project.

This is a **fantastic opportunity** to showcase your research to a wide audience and show us what goes on **'behind the scenes'**.

Applications  
are  
open!

23<sup>rd</sup>

November

2022

The lucky winner(s) will be announced at the **end of the day** and be eligible to receive a **retail voucher of up to £50**

Our **panel of judges** will shortlist entries to be exhibited online, which will be open for a **public vote** during the conference.

Submit your entry  
via email:

[researcher@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:researcher@liverpool.ac.uk)

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## Speakers

### Professor Anthony Hollander



**Anthony Hollander is Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research & Impact and Professor of Stem Cell Biology at the University of Liverpool.** He provides strategic leadership for the development of research policy and for ensuring impact of the University's research programmes in Liverpool and around the world. He is also responsible for commercialisation of research, for developing partnerships with companies and other external stakeholders and for the training of postgraduate research students.

Anthony's research career has focussed on the development of stem cell therapies for treating diseases of cartilage. His former spin-out company, Azellon Ltd, is developing a stem cell treatment for torn knee cartilage and he was previously part of a team that created the world's first tissue engineered airway. He is former President of the International Cartilage Repair Society and is Chair of Utrecht University's International Scientific and Societal Advisory Board for Life Sciences. Anthony is also Chair of the N8 Senior Executive Group.

### Prof Georgina Enfield

**Professor of Environmental History and Associate-Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Impact for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Liverpool.** Georgina's research focuses on environmental history, and specifically on climatic history and historical climatology, on human responses to unusual or extreme weather events, conceptualizations of climate variability in historical perspective. She is currently working with Dr Jacqueline Waldoock on the 'Mapping Home' strand of a UKRI (AHRC) COVID project- Stayhome Stories: experiences of home during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Georgina served as a full REF panellist on the Geography and Environmental Studies panel in the 2021 REF and her past roles have included President of the International Commission for the History of Meteorology and Honorary Secretary for Research and Higher Education at the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers. Georgina currently sits on the Steering Committee for the UK's Strategic Priorities Funded Climate Resilience theme.



### Professor Jon Tonge (Department of Politics)

**Jon Tonge is Professor of Politics at the University of Liverpool.** He has served on the Politics sub-panel for the last two Research Evaluation Frameworks (REFs) including as Deputy Chair for the 2021 exercise. Professor Tonge has been Principal Investigator of each Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Northern Ireland general election survey since 2010. He is currently leading a two year £400,000 ESRC research project entitled 'Beyond Unionism and Nationalism in Northern Ireland', including a membership survey of the Alliance Party (book forthcoming with Oxford University Press).

He has published 16 books, including volumes on each general election since 1997 and more than 100 articles. Professor Tonge's books on Northern Irish politics have covered all the main political parties, with recent volumes on the unionist parties published by Oxford University Press. He was appointed by the last Labour Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, as chair of the Youth Citizenship Commission, examining how to better connect young people to politics. Professor Tonge also directed a two-year Leverhulme Trust project examining the historical debates over the voting age in the UK. He is also a regular television and radio commentator.



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## Public engagement and pathways to impact showcase

### [Dr Heather Allison](#)

**Reader in Microbiology in the Department of Clinical Infection, Microbiology and Immunology within the Institute of Infection, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences.** Heather has been employed at the University since 1999 in many different levels, from postdoctoral research associate to her current position in that time. She has a significant teaching role in the School of Life Sciences, runs an active research group and enjoys talking about science outside the university.



### [Dr Sophie H. Jones](#)

**A historian of the eighteenth-century British Atlantic.** Sophie is currently a Post-Doctoral Research Associate at the University of Liverpool, based in the Department of History, where she works on the AHRC-funded project 'Libraries, Reading Communities and Cultural Formation in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic'. She was awarded her PhD by the University of Liverpool in 2018 for her study of the development of loyalist identities in the colony of New York. She has published on a range of subjects, including early-modern merchant families, eighteenth-century subscription libraries, and early-modern literacy.

### [Jon Newnham](#)

**PhD Student at the University in the department of chemistry and an amateur science communicator.** Jon has broad interests in the natural sciences, but renewable energy technologies and green chemistry are the main areas he is passionate about, and his research focuses on. He's also worked with multiple science communication organisations including Pint of Science and Scientist Next Door and writes occasional blog posts on aspects of science in the news.



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## Panel Discussion

### Building a Better Research Environment

#### Dr Jenna Kenyani

Jenna currently holds the position of Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Advisor for the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences within the University of Liverpool. She supports and leads on a number of projects to help improve the research culture of the University and make it a more inclusive, diverse and accessible place to work. Previous to this role Jenna was a Public Engagement Officer and PGR Wellbeing Advisor for the Faculty. Jenna has a passion in improving research culture after completing her PhD in 2012 and then undertaking two post-doctoral research positions in Cancer Research. Jenna has also been Chair of the Disabled Staff Network for the University for the past 5 years and sits on a number of committees across the University to help improve inclusivity and accessibility. She is an advocate for mental health awareness and neurodiversity awareness giving professional talks on both topics. Finally, Jenna is also a Trustee for Compass Counselling Charity in Liverpool which does important work in providing affordable counselling to the people of Merseyside and recently won the Queens Award as well as being the Equality and Diversity Rep on the Merseyside Young Professionals Board.



#### Dr Shaima Hassan

Dr Hassan is a research associate at NIHR ARC North West Coast, the University of Liverpool. She is the Patient, Public, Community Involvement & Engagement (PPCI&E) research lead, working collaboratively as part of a wider public involvement team, playing a key role in supporting the delivery of research and implementation activities across the ARC NWC to ensure relevance to all parts of the region, particularly those with significant health needs. Shaima's research interest centres around health services research and the factors that influence individual's experiences, decision-making and more specifically health seeking behaviours and health inequalities. Shaima is the EDI Lead for the Department of Primary Care and Mental Health and representative of the UoL BAME Network.



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# Research Staff Conference 2022

## Panel Discussion

### Building a Better Research Environment

#### Dr Niamh Thornton – LGBTQ+ co- Chair

**Niamh is a Reader in Latin American Studies at the University of Liverpool.** She is currently Co-Chair of the LGBTQ+ Staff Network. She is a specialist in Mexican Film, Literature, and Digital Cultures with a particular focus on war stories, gender, star studies, cultures of taste, and distributed content. Her key research interest is in the multiple representations of conflict in literature and film. She has published extensively. Her most recent books are: *Tastemakers and Tastemaking: Mexico and Curated Screen Violence* (SUNY, 2020) and the edited collection, *Legacies of the Past: Memory and Trauma in Mexican Visual and Screen Cultures* (EUP, 2020). She is currently writing a book on the film star of the Mexican Golden Age, María Félix.



#### Dr Kudzai Dominic Chiwenga

**Dominic is a Lecturer in the Department of Operations and Supply Chain Management (OSCM) at the University of Liverpool Management School (ULMS).** He joined ULMS in 2019 as a Postdoctoral Research Associate, working across the OSCM group to support the development and submission of research grants. Dominic also works on facilitating interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research consortia building across the University of Liverpool and the wider academic community. This includes industry engagement for research and knowledge exchange partnerships' bids. Dominic holds a PhD in Operations and Information Management from the University of Bradford. He is the Winner of the Dean's Prize for Innovation and Impact in Doctoral Research. Dominic is a qualified Agronomist and has an extensive background working in production and operational management roles within the Agri-Food industry, he was a Production Manager in an FTSE 250 food manufacturing company. His current research interests focus on, Supply Chain Resilience and Sustainability with a particular interest in Food Systems, Sustainable Operations Management, Industry 4.0, Circular Economy and Humanitarian Operations.



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## ORGANISERS

This conference has been organised by volunteers from the **University of Liverpool Research Staff Association** set up in 2018 and run *by researchers for researchers* supported by **The Academy**

### CO-CHAIRS



**Claire Wilson**  
Faculty of Health & Life Sciences



**Sophie Jones**  
Faculty of Humanity & Social Sciences



**Bengt Tegner**  
Faculty of Science & Engineering



**Shona Moore**  
Faculty of Health & Life Sciences

### DEPUTY CO-CHAIRS



**Janette Greenhalgh**  
Faculty of Health & Life Sciences



**Selina Johnson**  
Faculty of Health & Life Sciences



**Tahereh Nemataram**  
Faculty of Science & Engineering



**Revathy Krishnamurthi**  
Faculty of Health & Life Sciences

### THE ACADEMY



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**Maleka De Silva**  
Faculty of Health & Life Sciences



**Angela Midgley**  
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**Cordelia Dunai**  
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## Parallel Workshops

### **Outsourcing Your Brain: How Others Can Help You Realise Your Career Potential (Prosper)**

In this session, we'll provide tips on how you can realise your career potential by harnessing your professional network and provide the opportunity to try out some of these tips live. We'll link the benefits others can bring to realising your career potential and practical ways you can find overlap between what's important to you and what you want out of your career. This session will be a mix of short Prosper presentations and practical activities (involving participants circulating around the room).

### **Having a Fulfilling Research Career in Industry (IBM)**

There is a longstanding feeling that moving to the industry will mean a move away from blue-sky thinking to only caring about the next quarter's results. But is this really true? This session will try to shed some light on this myth by showing how IBM has used grand challenges to overcome some of the largest obstacles in science and build the world's largest and oldest corporate research lab. We will use real examples to help you create a toolkit for building a successful and fulfilling research career in the industry through the three pillars of value, timing and context.

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## Networking Activities

- 20 minute guided walking tour  
[https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/media/livacuk/researcher/documents/Research,Staff,Conference,self-guided,walking,tour,\(v1\).pdf](https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/media/livacuk/researcher/documents/Research,Staff,Conference,self-guided,walking,tour,(v1).pdf)



- 15-minute Yoga video
- 11-minute virtual tour of sculptures around the University.  
([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzYyo8\\_SH7A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzYyo8_SH7A))

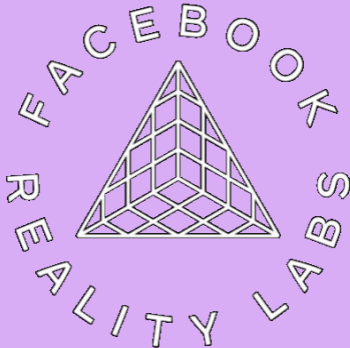


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## SPONSORS

The RSA conference organizing committee wishes to thank the following organisations for sponsoring the conference.



The **Facebook Reality Labs (FRL)** Team brings together a world-class team of researchers, developers, and engineers to create the future of virtual and augmented reality, which together will become as universal and essential as smartphones and personal computers are today. And just as personal computers have done over the past 45 years, AR and VR will ultimately change everything about how we work, play, and connect.

We are developing all the technologies needed to enable breakthrough AR glasses and VR headsets, including optics and displays, computer vision, audio, graphics, brain-computer interfaces, haptic interaction, eye/hand/face/body tracking, perception science, and true telepresence. Some of those will advance much faster than others, but they all need to happen to enable AR and VR that are so compelling that they become an integral part of our lives.

Merck and our well-known brands from Sigma Aldrich, Millipore, Supelco and Milli-Q will be available to discuss how we can support you through your research with our large product range and new innovative products. Your account manager will be available to meet you and help with a chance to win prizes



**IBM** - We are a group of researchers, scientists, technologists, engineers, designers, and thinkers inventing what's next in computing. We're relentlessly curious about all the ways that computing can change the world. We're currently obsessed with advancing the state of the art in AI and hybrid clouds are defining the future of quantum computing. The confluence of the technologies we're building represents a step change in computing that will surpass anything we've seen before. Together, they can exponentially alter the speed and scale at which we can uncover solutions to complex problems



We've come to call this **accelerated discovery**.

We are discovering the new materials that will become the next generation of computer chips; we're building bias-free AI that can take the burden out of business decisions; we're designing a hybrid-cloud platform that essentially operates as the world's computer. We're moving quantum computing from a theoretical concept to machines that are redefining industry and society. The problems the world is facing today require us to work faster than ever before. We see it as our duty to catalyse scientific progress by taking the cutting-edge technologies we're working on, scaling them, and deploying them with partners across every industry and field of study. Our goal is to be the engine of change for IBM, our partners, and the world at large.

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