

Call for submissions

Transgressing the Academy with half-baked ideas: Critical development workshops

Critical Management Studies beyond the Academy? 30th June – 2nd July 2027, Lancaster University

Session Type: Hybrid

Convenors:

Dr Victoria Pagan, Senior Lecturer, Newcastle University Business School

Professor Ilaria Boncori, University of Essex

Dr Carolyn Hunter, University of York

Dr Jenny Davidson, Arden University

Purpose of session

The goal of the critical development workshop is to create an open space where presenters from within and without the Academy can propose a discussion, seek advice and receive feedback, gain support and direction on a potential and/or emerging project, dissertation, paper, or any other research-related activity. It is intended to complement a model of activity that has been established at other ICMS conferences, including activities delivered by VIDA colleagues Prof. Jo Brewis, Prof. Sarah Robinson, Prof. Martyna Sliwa and Prof. Alessia Contu, and sessions that we ran at ICMS 2023 in Nottingham and ICMS 2025 in Manchester.

These sessions aim to foster connections and a sense of a caring, helpful CMS community that recognises the importance of permeable boundaries between academic and non-academic identities. Each participant should submit ideas/projects that would benefit from transgressive discussions with colleagues.

These sessions are not intended for fully-fledged projects/articles, rather they are a place where participants can come with very early thoughts and ideas, throw them into a collegiate and encouraging environment with a view to seeing where they may go. These are categorised as '*half-baked ideas*' (a description from my own research mentor) and some examples of content could include the following: specific questions that presenters are looking for answers to; a piece of literature/theory that they are finding challenging and would like to talk through; methodological musings; and/or thought experiments.

The format is designed for participants at various stages of their career within or without academic boundaries, including the earliest doctoral students through to the most established professors. Activists, practitioners and anyone with an interest in critical management are most welcome.

It is hoped that those attending as presenters and as listeners/discussants will come with open and inquiring minds, in the spirit of egalitarian learning and discussion. Presenters and participants will be encouraged to share knowledge and resources, consider an expanse of possibilities, and build new and/or develop existing communities of like-minded colleagues who may help translate the work into practice to the benefit of critical management studies and society beyond.

Running format

We intend to run hybrid sessions (online/in-person) that include convenors, presenting participants, and discussants.

Sessions will be 60-90 minutes with ideas grouped together by the convening team and a Chair to help keep time/stimulate discussion as needed. Other conference attendees across streams are very welcome to attend as listeners/discussants.

Open, supportive, curious discussion and dialogue is central to the running format. During the session, each idea/project should be explored through a 10-15 minute overview given by the attendees with submissions. This **should not** be a formal presentation, **no slides**; if appropriate, handouts or other visual/audio aids could be used.

The overview might include a short list of two to three questions or challenges for which they would like suggested direction, advice and/or discussion. The Chair and other participants in the session should ask clarifying questions, offer suggestions, and help the presenters address hidden assumptions and potential challenges in their work.

Submissions

Please submit up to 500 word outlines of half-baked ideas in advance of the Conference to victoria.pagan@newcastle.ac.uk so that the session chair(s) and attendees can prepare to instigate/stimulate discussion as needed.

Information about the Convening Team

Dr Victoria Pagan, Newcastle University Business School, victoria.pagan@newcastle.ac.uk

Victoria (she/her), Lead Convenor of the stream, is Senior Lecturer in Strategic Management and Director of Academic Advising at Newcastle University Business School. Her research interests coalesce around knowledge- its generation, uses, and violations including epistemic violence and epistemic injustice. Her current work is an exploration of the impacts of the uses of non-disclosure agreements in a range of workplace contexts. She serves as co-Editor in Chief of the journal *Culture and Organization*.

Professor Ilaria Boncori, University of Essex

Ilaria Boncori (she/her) is a Professor in Organisation Studies and Human Resources Management at the University of Essex (UK). As a critical management scholar, her research interests focus on diversity and equity in organizations and processes of organising. Her recent work has focussed on intersectional approaches to organising, women's health and gendered praxes. She specialises in qualitative methods, including interviews, narrative and arts-based methods such as poetry, autoethnography, photoethnography and collaging.

Dr Carolyn Hunter, University of York

Carolyn (she/her) is a Senior Lecturer at the School for Business and Society, University of York. She specialises in applying affect theory to the creative industries, gender, culture management and fun and play at work. Recent publications explore the themes of humour, gender and happiness in the journals *Human Relations*, *Gender, Work and Organisation* and *Culture & Organization*, and the book 'Affect in Organization and Management' co-edited with Dr Nina Kivinen. Recently, with colleagues, she presented a report to the All-Party Writers' Group at Westminster on the impact of digital platforms on screenwriters' earnings in the UK.

Dr Jenny Davidson, Arden University

Jenny (she/her) is an Academic Director at Arden University and a Visiting Fellow at Newcastle University, she holds a number of external Advisory Board and Non-Exec Director roles advising on ESG and Social Value. Jenny has worked primarily in Executive Education and work-based learning and has a particular interest in education for sustainability and exploring pedagogies of practice. Recent publications include exploring the impact of a relational approach to launching an executive MBA in the midst of a global pandemic,

exploring Design Thinking as a pedagogy of practice and partnering with the Women in Sustainability to explore the role of women's voices in the Climate Change debate- Why Being Heard isn't Enough <https://womeninsustainability.net/wins-report>