PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Annual Conference Report 2025









Partnering for Progress: Enhancing Collaboration, Building Communities, & Navigating Conflict to Accelerate Agenda 2030

> Queen's Business School, Belfast Tuesday 17 to Thursday 19 June 2025





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The **2025 PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Conference and Doctoral Colloquium** was hosted by Queen's Business School, Queen's University Belfast, from Tuesday 17 to Thursday 19 June 2025. In addition to being a highlight of the Chapter calendar, it represented an important milestone as it was the first time the event had been held on the Island of Ireland. The conference attracted over 130 delegates from across the UK, Ireland, and beyond.

In line with PRME's fifth <u>Principle</u>, Partnership, and the United Nations' <u>17th Sustainable</u> <u>Development Goal</u> (SDG), "Partnerships for the Goals," the conference theme, "Partnering for Progress: Enhancing Collaboration, Building Communities, and Navigating Conflict to Accelerate Agenda 2030", acknowledged the transformative power of partnerships in achieving environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

Partnerships that bridge sectors, institutions, and borders are critical to addressing today's most pressing sustainability challenges. However, while partnerships offer immense potential for driving impactful change, they also bring unique complexities, from managing conflicting priorities to ensuring genuine inclusivity. The conference explored partnerships by considering the role of collaboration in enhancing progress towards the SDGs, the significance of community building for meaningful and lasting progress, and the challenges of navigating conflicts and tensions that may emerge within partnerships and between partners, especially in the context of an increasingly complex and volatile environment.

The conference theme also reflected the pivotal role business schools play in facilitating partnerships between academia, industry, government, and civil society in advancing sustainability. Through a plethora of collaborative activities, such as research partnerships, educational outreach, community and business engagement, impact initiatives, entrepreneurial start-ups or spin outs, business schools bring together stakeholders with diverse expertise and resources. These activities not only underscore business schools' efforts in developing students as ethical and responsible business leaders, they also facilitate business schools to act as bridges, connecting sectors and fostering collaborations that can address systemic sustainability challenges on a broader scale.

The conference featured over 50 papers and workshops, four keynote addresses, and three panel discussions with highly regarded speakers from academia, as well as the private, public, and voluntary/third sectors. It represented an important opportunity to celebrate the winners of the Chapter Innovative Pedagogy Competition and Research Seed Funding Competition. The conference dinner, which was sponsored by Queen's Business School, included a fireside chat with leading figures within the global PRME community, namely Prof. Carole Parks (University of Winchester) and Prof. Sheila Killian (University of Limerick).

The following document provides an overview of the 2025 PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Conference and Doctoral Colloquium. In addition, readers may wish to view the **Book of Extended Abstracts** and **Conference Highlights Reel** – both of which are available via the Chapter website.







"As Chapter Chair I ask our conference hosts to deliver a meaningful, academically rigorous and, above all, a friendly conference, one that celebrates our membership and shines a light on the excellent work of business school educators pursuing PRME Principles in their teaching and research. I also want the hosts to have the opportunity to showcase their locale and their institutional specialisms with visits, keynotes and speakers with regional connections but global impact. The PRME UK & Ireland Chapter conference is always a highlight of my year and 2025 was no exception with the team from QUB going above and beyond with the warmest of welcomes, the highest standards in the sessions they convened and a large dose of fun in all the networking and social interactions provided."

Professor Natascha Radclyffe-Thomas Chair, PRME Chapter UK & Ireland







"The 2025 PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Conference hosted by Queen's Business School at Queen's University Belfast was an exemplary showcase of the power and vulnerability of the PRME network. The programme did not shy away from hard conversations and intentionally blended locally and globally relevant sustainability topics. Importantly, the exceptionally curated event represented the importance of community building and responsible leadership, especially in challenging times".

Sophie Kacki Manager, Programmes & Engagement, PRME Secretariat



Since 2021, on the day prior to the start of the annual conference, the Chapter holds a Doctoral Colloquium, which is chaired by <u>Dr Rachel Welton</u> of Nottingham Trent University. In 2025, 13 doctoral students from 11 institutions participated in the event.

The Doctoral Colloquium opened with an icebreaker activity led by <u>Dr Marc Duffy</u> of Ulster University. Then, following a networking lunch, a keynote presentation was delivered by <u>Dr Sajia Ferdous of Queen's Business School</u>. Dr Ferdous' research explores workplace inequality issues, particularly how the intersections between gender, age, class and race/ethnicity play out within work and employment contexts. In addition to discussing her work, Dr Ferdous offered insightful advice for doctoral students on successfully navigating their early career in academia.

Next, participants engaged in lively roundtable discussions aligned with their specific research areas. These were facilitated by Prof. Georgina Gough (UWE Bristol), Dr Stuart McClure (Queen's University Belfast), Dr Mohamed Saeudy (University of Bedfordshire), and Dr Heike Schröder-Altmann (Queen's University Belfast). This was followed by a short plenary session where one student from each roundtable summarised the main points of discussion for their group.

After a short break for refreshments, Dr Mohamed Saeudy (University of Bedfordshire) delivered a seminar on "Using Al Tools to Support your Research". This included a practical overview of and insights into specific research-related applications. This was followed by a panel discussion titled, "Top Tips for Doctoral Students – How to Develop your Publication Journey", with Prof. Georgina Gough (UWE Bristol), <u>Dr Juliet Hassard</u> (Queen's Business School), and <u>Prof. Simon Teasdale</u> (Queen's Business School). The panellists emphasised: (1) the importance of starting early and thinking strategically. For example, by beginning with smaller, more manageable outputs such as conference abstracts or book reviews to gain experience; (2) creating a publication plan – decide what do I want to publish? Where? When? (3) aiming for quality over quantity – a few high quality, well-cited papers can have more impact than a larger number of less well-regarded publications; (4) building collaborations with supervisors, peers, and researchers in related fields; and (5) learning to handle feedback and rejection – an inevitability within academic careers!

Finally, the Doctoral Colloquium concluded with a panel discussion titled, "One Career, Multiple Paths – Exploring Different Career Journeys in Higher Education". This session, which involved members of faculty from Queen's Business School, namely <u>Dr Lisa Bradley</u>, <u>Dr Charles Vincent</u>, and <u>Prof. Julie McCandless</u>, explored the Education & Scholarship, Research & Education, and Professional Practice career pathways. The panellists offered insights into the potential benefits and drawbacks of each pathway. For example, research-focused roles offer the potential for high-impact publications and funding but are often steeped in the "publish or perish" culture. Teaching-focused roles can provide stability and student engagement but limit research and scholarship time. Practice-focused roles bring industry relevance and applied impact but may lack traditional academic recognition. Each path balances prestige, stability, workload, and advancement differently.

The Doctoral Colloquium Chair, Dr Rachel Welton, closed the event, with many participants opting to attend the Belfast city centre walking tour and social dinner later in the evening.















The evening before the official opening of the conference, delegates had the option to participate in a walking tour of Belfast city centre and a social dinner.

The walking tour, which was facilitated by <u>DC Tours</u>, commenced at <u>Belfast City Hall</u>. Participants were informed of how Belfast developed from a small 17th-century settlement around a ford on the River Lagan into Ireland's principal industrial hub by the 19th century. Its growth was fuelled by linen production, shipbuilding, and engineering, with Harland & Wolff constructing the RMS Titanic. The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw grand Victorian architecture and expanding commercial districts. However, the Troubles (late 1960s–1998) brought significant disruption, with security barriers and economic decline. Since the Good Friday Agreement, regeneration has transformed the city centre, introducing modern shopping areas, cultural venues, and the Titanic Quarter. Today, Belfast city centre blends historic landmarks with contemporary development, serving as Northern Ireland's political, economic, and cultural heart.

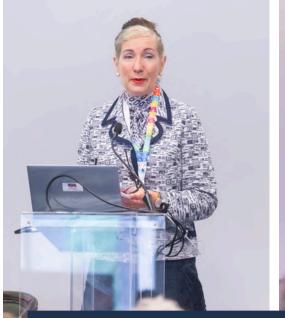
The tour ended at the award-winning <u>Academy Restaurant</u>, the venue for the social dinner. Overlooking St Anne's Cathedral, the Academy is Ulster University's state-of-the-art educational centre incorporating a restaurant, culinary school, and conference and meeting facilities. Selected for its green credentials, delegates enjoyed a delicious, sustainably sourced three-course meal while reconnecting with familiar faces and forging new relationships.













ANNUAL CONFERENCE DAY 1

The 2025 PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Conference was officially opened by <u>Prof. M. N. Ravishankar</u>, Dean of Queen's Business School. Prof. Ravishankar (pictured above, left) warmly welcomed delegates to both Queen's University and to the city of Belfast, noting that this represented the first time the event had been held on the Island of Ireland. He took the opportunity to discuss the Business School's longstanding commitment to PRME and sustainability more broadly, as evidenced in the new Student Hub, which features extensive use of solar power, a living roof, "swift bricks" to support endangered bird species, and – below ground – the largest geothermal energy project in Northern Ireland. Professor Ravishankar concluded by thanking the faculty and professional services staff at QBS, as well as the PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Steering Committee, for their collective efforts directed towards delivering an inclusive, impactful event.

Next, <u>Prof. Natascha Radclyffe-Thomas</u> (pictured above, centre), Chair of PRME Chapter UK & Ireland, welcomed delegates on behalf of the Chapter Steering Committee. In addition to thanking those involved in organising the Conference and Doctoral Colloquium, Prof. Radclyffe-Thomas provided a brief introduction to the work of the Chapter. She noted that many delegates were engaging with PRME for the first time – a reflection of increasing recognition of the importance of responsible and sustainable business and management education.

Keynote Address: Ambassador David Donoghue

The first keynote address was delivered by Ambassador David Donoghue (pictured above, right), Honorary Professor of Practice at Queen's Business School. From 2013–2017, Ambassador Donoghue was Ireland's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, cofacilitating negotiations on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016). Retiring from the Irish foreign service in September 2017, Ambassador Donoghue has since engaged extensively around the implementation of the UN SDGs. He contributes to several think tanks and academic bodies, focusing on sustainable development, migration, and conflict resolution. He is, inter alia, a Distinguished Fellow at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and Executive Committee Chair of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Ireland. Ambassador Donoghue's speech focused on the events that led to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In particular, he offered insights into the challenges and complexities of the negotiation process, which involved over 190 countries; the need for communication and collaboration to drive change; and the lack of sufficient progress on achieving the SDGs to date.

Panel Discussion: Navigating the EDI and Sustainability Landscape in 2025

Following Ambassador Donoghue's keynote address, he joined <u>Leeanne Armstrong</u>, Managing Associate, Lewis Silkin; <u>Colin Jess</u>, Chief Executive, Social Enterprise NI; and <u>Dr Meredith Storey</u>, Senior Manager, Programmes & Engagement, PRME Secretariat, for a panel discussion on "Navigating the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) & Sustainability Landscape in 2025". The panel was moderated by <u>Dr Denise Currie</u> of Queen's Business School.

The panel explored the complex, and sometimes contested, terrain of EDI and sustainability in 2025. While momentum around these agendas has grown, they also face new challenges – from increasing workplace disputes around competing rights, to backlash against EDI initiatives, to questions around how to embed meaningful and inclusive sustainability efforts that reflect local priorities. The panellists debated what these shifts mean for organisations and communities – and how we might collectively respond.

The overarching message from the panel was that while the concepts of EDI and sustainability may be subject to challenge, many individuals and organisations are deeply committed to the principles and values that underpin them – particularly those within the PRME community. We must work collaboratively to ensure that hard-won rights are not lost and that minoritized groups are not further pushed towards the periphery of business and society.

Keynote Address: Professor Joanne Murphy

The second keynote address was delivered by <u>Prof. Joanne Murphy</u>, Professor of Inclusive Leadership at the University of Birmingham. Prof. Murphy's research explores leadership, change and organisational development in political volatility, including environments affected by ethnopolitical conflict, violence and disorder. Her latest book is 'Management and War: How Organisations Navigate Conflict and Build Peace' (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020).

Prof. Murphy's speech explored the challenges of leadership in conflict-affected and politically unstable environments, with a focus on post-Brexit Northern Ireland. She argued that Northern Ireland remains post-violence but not post-conflict, and that leadership here is often episodic, shaped by tensions between identity and place, and constrained by a focus on stability over growth. Drawing on her recent research, she introduced the concept of liminality to describe the in-between nature of such contexts, and warned of the "trickster" dynamic – actors who thrive on conflict and disruption, often obstructing progress. Prof. Murphy called for more courageous, collaborative forms of leadership that confront these realities and support deeper transformation.





Pictured above (L-R): Dr Meredith Storey, Colin Jess, Leeanne Armstrong, Ambassador David Donoghue, and Dr Denise Dr Denise Currie.

Pictured above: Prof. Joanne Murphy, Professor of Inclusive Leadership, University of Birmingham.







Pictured above (L-R): Prof. Joanne Murphy, Naoimh McNamee, Enda Young, Alison Currie, and Dr Laura Steele.

Panel Discussion: The Role of Business and Management in Conflict, War, & Peacebuilding

Following Prof. Murphy's keynote address, she joined <u>Alison Currie</u>, Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, InterTradeIreland; <u>Naoimh McNamee</u>, CEO of the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation; and <u>Enda Young</u>, Founder and CEO, Centre for Negotiation and Leadership, for a panel discussion on "The Role of Business and Management in Conflict, War, & Peacebuilding". The panel was moderated by <u>Dr Laura Steele</u> of Queen's Business School.

The panel explored how business and management can contribute to peacebuilding and conflict transformation – not as peripheral actors, but as central players in fostering inclusive, just, and sustainable societies. It aligned with the conference theme of navigating conflict and tensions, while also reflecting the importance of enhancing collaboration and building communities and partnerships that transcend historical divides and geopolitical boundaries.

Within the context of Northern Ireland's own post-conflict transition, the session examined how organisations, leaders, and institutions contribute to peace through their leadership, practices, and partnerships. It asked: What role can businesses and management schools play in promoting more sustainable and peaceful societies? How do tensions manifest in societies we work toward the SDGs? And what can we learn from real-world peacebuilding work about the kind of leadership and collaboration that is needed? This session connected Agenda 2030 to lived realities in divided societies, acknowledging that sustainability is not only an environmental or economic issue, but also a political, cultural, and relational one.

The overarching message from the panel was that business can be a powerful force for peace by creating jobs, fostering cross-border trade, encouraging inclusive economic growth, and supporting ethical supply chains. Through collaboration, innovation, and responsible investment, companies can help reduce tensions, rebuild communities, and promote long-term stability in conflict-affected regions.















Parallel Sessions 1-3

The first round of conference papers was organised around the themes of "Mindset, Pedagogy, and Curriculum for Sustainability", "Commerciality and Sustainability", and "Community Driven Learning". These took place in parallel with interactive workshops on "Gamifying Sustainability: Enhancing Responsible Business Education through Interactive Learning" and "Building Communities in Decolonising Business Schools in Context: From Theory to Practice".

Further details of the papers and workshops from Parallel Sessions 1–3, including links to respective abstracts, are available below (pp. 9–11).

Keynote Address: Cormac Savage

The second keynote address was delivered by Cormac Savage, a student activist from Northern Ireland (pictured below, bottom image, with Conference Co-Lead Dr Denise Currie).

Cormac, a recent graduate of Harvard University and founder of the Secondary Students' Union of Northern Ireland, delivered a powerful speech reflecting on youth activism, leadership, and the need to build platforms that empower marginalised voices. Drawing on the dichotomy of his experiences in Northern Ireland and, most recently, as an international student in the United States, he highlighted how crisis can reveal leadership – but also how privilege shapes who is able to speak out. Cormac challenged the audience to rethink activism not as speaking the loudest, but as listening, making space, and lowering barriers for others to be heard.

	Parallel Session 1
Mindset, Pedagogy, & Curriculum for Sustainability	The Sustainability Mindset: Managing the Unforeseen Paradox of Knowledge Dr Karen Cripps (Oxford Brookes University) & Dr Constantine Manolchev (University of Exeter)
	Reflexivity and Dialogue in Leadership Education: Combining Confidence and Humility in Undergraduate Teaching Andrew Maile (University of Birmingham)
	Responsible Management Education as Socialisation: A Longitudinal Study on the Impact of Undergraduate Curriculum on Students' Values, Attitudes, and Intentions
	Prof. Debbie Haski-Leventhal (Macquarie University, Australia), Prof. Jenna Ward, Dr George Hulene, & Dr Jaliyyah Bello (Coventry University) Winners of the PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Research Seed Funding Competition
	Utilising Compost and Digestate to Improve Agricultural Sustainability in Bangladesh
<u>Commerciality</u> <u>& Sustainability</u>	Mr Md Raju Ahmad, Dr Paul N. Williams, Dr Thomas Hastings, Dr Jason Chin (Queen's University Belfast), D. Mahmud Hossain Sumon (Bangladesh Agricultural University), & Dr SM Ashekuzzaman (Munster Technological University)
	SDG7 and the Systematic Downplaying of Affordability in Discourses on Energy Dr Bibek Bhatta (Queen's University Belfast)
<u>Community-</u> <u>Driven Learning</u>	Building a UKI Sustainability Champions Community of Practice (CoP) Dr Karen Neville (University College Cork) & Dr Rachel Welton (Nottingham Trent University)
	Working with the Grassroots: Building a Green Leadership Community of Knowledge in Healthcare Management Dr Gloria Kirwan, Dr Anjali Raj Westwood, & Dr Claire Vallely (Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland)
	Positive Impact Rating for Business Schools (PIR) Prof. Thomas Dyllick & Prof. Katrin Muff (Positive Impact Ratings for Business Schools, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland)
<u>Interactive</u> <u>Workshop</u>	Gamifying Sustainability: Enhancing Responsible Business Education through Interactive Learning Dr Jennifer TyreeHageman, Dr Adam Nix, & Bethan Callow (University of Birmingham)
<u>Interactive</u> <u>Workshop</u>	Building Communities in Decolonising Business Schools in Context: From Theory to Practice Dr Caroline Chapain, Anita Lateano, Dr Emma Surman, & Dr Rweyemamu Ndibalema (University of Birmingham)

	Parallel Session 2
Al & Digital Technologies	Can Al Enhance Collaboration and Innovation to Improve Local Communities? The Case of 'ELEVATE Al: Sustainability Sprint' Dr Judith Wylie & Dr John Bustard (Ulster University)
	From Response-able to Responsible Al Use: The Promise of Ecopedagogy Dr Constantine Manolchev, Dr Ruth Cherrington, & Charlotte Smith (University of Exeter)
	SOARing Together: Cross-Cultural Partnerships Driving Digital Transformation in Vietnamese Higher Education Prof. Gelareh Roushan, Dr Milena Bobeva (Bournemouth University), Dr Mike Perkins, Ms Le Thi Tan Tan (British University Vietnam), Dr Tieu Thanh Thuy (Tra Vinh University), Dr Pham Duong Phuong Thao, & Mr Duc Huynh (University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City)
	Authentic Assessment in Responsible Business Education: Blogging on Sustainable Consumption Practices
	Dr Adam Nix & Dr Jennifer TyreeHageman (University of Birmingham)
<u>Innovations in</u> <u>Pedagogy</u>	Learning the Principles of Responsible Management Through Customised Card Games Mr David Anderson & Dr Davina Bird (University of Lincoln) Winners of the PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Innovative Pedagogy Seed Funding Competition
	Innovative Pedagogies for Responsible Management Education: Advancing the i5 Model and UKPSF across PRME Business Schools in the UK and Kazakhstan Dr Boidurjo Rick Mukhopadhyay (Middlesex University London), Ms Aurora Diaz Soloaga (Almaty Management University), & Dr Sumita Ketkar (University of Westminster)
	The Entrepreneurial Toolkit for Sustainability: Skills, Strategies, and Al Integration Dr Stephanie Sandland, Dr Alina Vaduva, & Dr Toyin Coker (University of East London)
<u>Sustainability</u> <u>Entrepreneurship</u> <u>Education</u>	Developing Collaborative and Responsible Entrepreneurship Education Programmes: Sharing insights from the REsPoNSE Initiative Prof. Colette Henry (Dundalk Institute of Technology, Ireland, & Griffith University, Australia), Dr Jennifer Fegan, & Dr Teresa O'Rourke (Dundalk Institute of Technology)
	Developing SDGs-driven Entrepreneurship Culture Across Ireland Dr Lana Repar (University College Cork), Prof. Joe Bogue (University College Cork),

Interactive Workshop Updating Business School Curriculum for Responsible Management Education Prof. Georgina Gough, UWE Bristol

McArdle, & Elizabeth Murray (Dundalk Institute of Technology)

Dr Breda O Dwyer (Munster Technological University), Dr Jennifer Fegan (Dundalk Institute of Technology), Brian Ogilvie (South East Technological University), Annmarie McHugh, Emer McKenna, Mary Kennedy, Amanda Kearns, Dr Maeve

Parallel Session 3

Programming Anxiety in Postgraduate Business Studies Students

Dr Orla McCullagh & Dr Barry Sheehan (University of Limerick)

Developing Spaces to Flourish: Outdoor/Indoor Eco Reflexive Learning

Dr Rosalyn Marron, Dr Kate Seymour, & Dr Helena Mary Kettleborough (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Impactful Learning

Winners of the PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Innovative Pedagogy Seed Funding Competition

Renting Clothing to Complement a Sustainable Wardrobe: Exploring UK Consumers Perceived Barriers to Renting Clothes and Identifying an Effective Circular Economy Business Model for Renting Everyday Clothes

Dr Rebecca Beech (Oxford Brookes University)

Winner of the PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Research Seed Funding Competition

How to do the Greatest Good? Educating for Compassion and Curiosity in Analysing Stakeholder Communities' Needs

Prof. Harry Van Buren (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga & Queen's University Belfast) & Dr Annie Snelson-Powell (University of Bath)

PRME Impact for Real: Student Views on Sustainable and Responsible Education – Three Business Schools; Past, Present and Future

Employability & Sustainability

Dr Marc Duffy (Ulster University), Dr Joanne Watts (Sheffield Hallam University), Nick Lawrence (Southampton Solent University), Hayden Cronk (Sheffield Hallam University), May Oo (Southampton Solent University), Ryan Buchanan, Roisin Gethin, Siena McConaghie, Laura McMahon, Roise McQuaid, Naomi Nevin, Sophie Scott, & Jack Hermin (Ulster University)

Bridging Sustainability Education and Employability: Collaborative Approaches in Higher Education

Estela Castelli Florino Pilz (Sulitest), Alison Bailey (University of Sussex), Prof. Gabriella Cagliesi (University of Sussex), & Dr Konstantina Skritsovali (Liverpool John Moores University)

Assessing the Effectiveness of the Financial Ecosystem in Promoting Agropreneurship in Cameroon

Ms Magdalen Ngeah Ndong (Griffith College Dublin) & Dr Tade Omotosho Daniel (Coventry University)

<u>Labour,</u> <u>Economy, &</u> <u>Sustainability</u>

The Informal-Formal Economy Interlock: An Indian Business Cycle Perspective Gupta Debkanika (Newcastle University)

Complexity and Heterogeneity of Job Quality in the Gig Economy: A Systematic Literature Review

Dr Wahiba Mellaoui (Seoul National University), Dr Heike Schroder (Queen's University Belfast), & Prof. Jorn Altmann (Seoul National University)

Interactive Workshop

Cocreation: Developing a Community of Practice within UKI PRME

Dr Rachel Welton (Nottingham Trent University) & Dr Karen Neville (University College Cork)



The first day of the conference concluded with a drinks reception and dinner held in the Isdell Courtyard at Riddel Hall and sponsored by Queen's Business School. The menu for the evening – and, indeed, catering across the conference – focused on <u>seasonal</u>, <u>locally sourced</u>, <u>and sustainable produce</u>.

A highlight of the conference dinner was a "fireside chat" with two leading figures within the global PRME community, Prof. Carole Parkes and Prof. Sheila Killian. Prof. Parkes is Professor Emeritus of Responsible Management and Leadership at the University of Winchester. She has been a champion for PRME since its inception in 2007. Prof. Parkes is a former Chair of PRME Chapter UK & Ireland, has been a member of the PRME Global Advisory Committee, and worked at the PRME Secretariat in New York as a Researcher in Residence. She is also a key member of the PRME Anti-Poverty Working Group and has been a visiting Professor in Chicago, USA. At the PRME 10th Anniversary Global Forum in 2017, she was presented with a PRME Pioneer Award 'for her leadership and commitment to the development of PRME' and appointed a UN PRME Special Advisor for PRME Chapters globally. Prof. Killian is Professor Emeritus of Accountability at Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick. Her work centres on issues of social justice and the common good with a specific focus on sustainability, responsible education, and the impact of 'expert' power. She led Kemmy Business School's initial engagement with PRME in 2008, and was a founding member of the UK & Ireland Chapter's Steering Committee.

During the discussion, which was facilitated by the current Chapter Chair, Prof. Natascha Radclyffe-Thomas, Prof. Parkes and Prof. Killian discussed how they came to be involved in PRME, their delight over how the UK & Ireland Chapter has developed over the last 12 years, and some of the highlights of their involvement with the PRME, with a particular emphasis on the relationships that have been forged. In addition, they emphasised the importance of upholding values such as integrity, responsibility, and fairness in a world increasingly characterised by conflict, division, and clear signs of retrenchment in regard to both corporate and government sustainability commitments.



























A Moment of Mindfulness: Moving from Burnout to Balance with Caroline Stewart

Prior to the official opening of Day 2 of the conference, delegates had the option to enjoy "A Moment of Mindfulness" with Caroline Stewart of Mindfulness NI (pictured below, left). Mindfulness is the practice of focusing attention on the present moment with openness and without judgment. It involves observing thoughts, feelings, and sensations as they arise, fostering awareness and acceptance. This approach promotes mental clarity, reduces stress, and supports emotional well-being by encouraging calm, intentional responses over automatic reactions. Caroline, a leading expert on mindfulness in Northern Ireland, offered delegates a research-informed introduction to the practice as well as several practical tools that can be integrated into day-to-day life.

Keynote Address: Dr Meredith Storey & Sophie Kacki, PRME Secretariat

The final keynote address of the conference was delivered by Dr Meredith Storey and Ms Sophie Kacki of the PRME Secretariat in New York (pictured below, centre). Dr Storey and Ms Kacki provided delegates with a detailed overview of the extensive content offered by PRME, as well as various initiatives designed to enhance the global PRME community. In regard to content, Dr Storey discussed opportunities around case writing and research, the new PRME Pedagogy Certification, the innovative PRME Commons platform, as well as the forthcoming PRME Curriculum resources. In terms of community building, Ms Kacki highlighted the PRME Champions initiative, the PRME Working Groups, and PRME Students. The overarching message from the session was that PRME signatories are part of dynamic global learning community, have access to exclusive resources, can strength their curriculum and research via collaborative networks, and can demonstrate commitment to the UN SDGs through their annual Sharing Information on Progress (SIP) reports.













Panel Discussion: Community Building for Social, Environmental, & Economic Impact

Following Ms Kacki's keynote address, she joined <u>Prof. Robert Davison</u>, Professor at the City University of Hong Kong & Editor in Chief of Information Systems Journal; <u>Dr Nisha Tandon OBE</u>, CEO, ArtsEkta; and <u>Nessa Whelan</u>, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Country Network Ireland, for a panel discussion on "Community Building for Social, Environmental, & Economic Impact". The panel was moderated by <u>Prof. M. N. Ravishankar</u>, Dean of Queen's Business School.

This panel explored how diverse forms of community-building can serve as catalysts for advancing the SDGs. In alignment with the "Building Communities" track of the 2025 PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Conference, the session examined how partnerships, networks, and inclusive practices can drive meaningful, context-sensitive change. Whether through cultural integration, responsible business networks, pedagogical innovation, or inclusive research practices, each panellist brought a unique perspective on how communities are not only built – but also sustained – in pursuit of social justice, environmental stewardship, and economic resilience.

The overarching message from the panel was that community building – whether it be in industry, academia, or the arts – is essential for fostering trust, collaboration, and shared responsibility, as well as enabling collective action toward social, environmental, and economic goals. Strong communities can address local needs, promote sustainable practices, and drive inclusive growth. By uniting diverse voices, they create resilience, inspire innovation, and amplify efforts, ensuring long-lasting positive change across multiple aspects of society.

PRME Chapter UK & Ireland AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM), chaired by Prof. Natascha Radclyffe-Thomas, presented the UK & Ireland Chapter Annual Report for 2024, outlining the Chapter's achievements in the past year and setting out future priorities. In addition, Prof. Radclyffe-Thomas took the opportunity to sincerely thank the Chapter Treasurer, Nishat Azmat, for her distinguished service over the last six years. The AGM concluded with the exciting announcement that the 2026 PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Conference would be hosted by the <u>School of Management at the University of Bath</u>.



Pictured above (L-R): Prof. Robert Davison, Sophie Kacki, Dr Nisha Tandon OBE, Nessa Whelan, and Prof. M. N. Ravishankar



Pictured above (L-R): Sophie Kacki, Manager, Programmes & Engagement, PRME Secretariat, and Dr Nisha Tandon OBE, CEO, ArtsEkta

PRME UK & Ireland Local Network Showcase

Following the AGM, the Chapter celebrated its seven Local Networks, which have been driving localised engagement with the PRME Principles and the UN SDGs since 2018 under the stewardship of Dr Rachel Welton (Nottingham Trent University). Each of the Local Networks has designated coordinators who organise and promote events within their region. The seven Local Networks are:

- Island of Ireland
- London and South-East
- Midlands
- North-East and Yorkshire
- North-West and North Wales
- Scotland
- South-West and South Wales

In 2024, the Local Networks adopted the shared theme of "<u>PRME i5</u>". The i5 framework equips business and management educators with a playful-learning approach rooted in LEGO Foundation research. It emphasises five characteristics – making learning meaningful, joyful, socially interactive, actively engaging, and iterative – to develop holistic skills in future responsible leaders aligned with the SDGs. To support the development and integration of i5, Local Networks organised various webinars, workshops, and other activities across the academic year.

For more information about the Local Networks, please visit the Chapter website.

Parallel Session 4

The second round of conference papers was organised around the themes of "Collaborative Pedagogy" and "Innovations in Pedagogy". These took place in parallel with interactive workshops on "PRME SIP Reporting – Key Considerations for 2025 and Preliminary Findings from the PRME Champions SIP 2.0 Review Project" and "Sharing and Developing Best Practice in Sustainable Entrepreneurship".

Further details of the papers and workshops from Parallel Session 4, including links to respective abstracts, are available below (p. 17).

Parallel Session 5

The final round of conference papers was organised around the themes of "Learning with Communities", "Tensions with Stakeholders", and "Sustainable Entrepreneurship Education and Working with Business". These took place in parallel with an interactive workshop on "Collaborative Sustainability Integration".

Further details of the papers and workshops from Parallel Session 5, including links to respective abstracts, are available below (p. 18).







	Parallel Session 4
	Induction is a process, not an event! Student-staff co-created and co-delivered course workshop supporting transition across large first year cohorts Dr Rachel Welton, William Carey, & Ethan Keene (Nottingham Trent University)
<u>Collaborative</u> <u>Pedagogy</u>	Empowering Sustainability Research through Hybrid Cross-Institutional Interdisciplinary Student Mobility Dr Milena Bobeva, Dr Reena Vijayakumaran, Ibrahim Awawdeh, Prof. Fiona Cownie (Bournemouth University), Dr Vina Tan Phei Sean, & D. Ng Theam Foo (Universiti Sains Malaysia)
	Building Bridges: A Collaborative Cross-Functional Mentorship Program for Female Business Students' Sustainable and Professional Development Dr Evelyn Oginni & Dr Kate Han (University of Salford)
<u>Innovations in</u> <u>Pedagogy</u>	The Role of Interdisciplinary Hackathons to address Global Challenges: A Swansea University and WFGA (2015) Collaboration Dr Samantha Burvill, Dr Fern Davies, Ms Beth Cummings, & Dr Kate Organ (Swansea University)
	The Leadership Challenge – A Collaboration with Rewired Earth Alison Bailey (University of Sussex), Ru Pearce, & Seb Royce (Rewired Earth)
	Climate Change: An Experiential Learning Experience Prof. Colm McLaughlin (University College Dublin)
PRME SIP Reporting	PRME SIP Reporting: Key Considerations for 2025 and Preliminary Findings from the PRME Champions SIP 2.0 Review Project Dr Laura Steele (Queen's University Belfast) and Dr Petros Vourvachis (Loughborough University)
<u>Interactive</u> <u>Workshop</u>	Sharing and Developing Best Practice in Sustainable Entrepreneurship Dr Breda Kenny, Munster Technological University

Parallel Session 5		
<u>Learning with</u> <u>Communities</u>	Regenerative Sustainability Refugee Camps Project in Palestine Dr Abeer Pharaon (Manchester Metropolitan University)	
	Learning through Community-based Participatory Research - Practices and Challenges Dr Nisha Prakash & Dr Preethi Thankappan Nair (University of East London)	
	Religious Differentials in the Labour Market: The Impact of the Good Friday Agreement on a Divided Society 25 Years On Méabh Cairns (University Of Edinburgh)	
	PRME, the Business School and the UN Global Compact: Where is Principle 3? Prof. Colm McLaughlin (University College Dublin)	
<u>Tensions with</u> <u>Stakeholders</u>	Where is the 'Big Manual' for Academic Boundary-Work? Institutional Stances on Policy-Maker Utility Dr Nicola Barron, Prof. Mark Palmer, & Dr Lucas Stocco (Queen's University Belfast)	
	To what extent have anti-sustainability discourses affected the scope of sustainability in SMEs and shaped the attitudes of business owners? Isabel Saxby (University of Plymouth)	
Sustainable Entrepreneurship Education & Working with Business	The Place of Sustainability Competences in Entrepreneurship Education: Possibilities and Practice Prof. Georgina Gough & Dr Pam Seanor (UWE Bristol)	
	Empowering RME through Experiential SDG Engagement: Post-Project Reflection of PRME UK&I Innovative Pedagogic Approaches and Teaching Practices Award Implementation Dr Johanna Clancy (University of Galway) Winner of the PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Innovative Pedagogy Seed Funding Competition	
	Beyond Sustainability Toolkit: Reimagining Business Education through Regeneration and Creativity Dr Alessandro Merendino & Dr Paula Serafini (Queen Mary University of London), Prof. Nick Mcguigan (Monash University, Australia), & Prof. Nadia Gulko (University of Lincoln) Winners of the PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Innovative Pedagogy Seed Funding Competition	
<u>Interactive</u> <u>Workshop</u>	Collaborative Sustainability Integration Project Workshop Dr Uchenna Tony-Okeke (Coventry University), Dr Jaliyyah Bello (Coventry University), & Dr Nikhil Sapre (University of Bristol)	

Conference Close: A Call to Action on Community and Collaboration in PRME

The Conference concluded with a "Call to Action on Community and Collaboration in PRME" led by Dr Meredith Storey and Sophie Kacki from the PRME Secretariat, alongside Prof. Natascha Radclyffe-Thomas and Dr Laura Steele from PRME Chapter UK & Ireland. Together, they emphasised the many ways both individuals and institutions can engage with PRME, for example:

PRME Working Groups

Anti-Corruption

Business & Human Rights

Business for Peace

Climate Change and Environment

Gender Equality

Poverty, a Challenge for Management Education

PRME Affiliates

Sulitest

Giving Voice to Values

Sustainability Mindset

Humanistic Management

Positive Impact Rating (PIR)

Aim2Flourish

Other Engagement Opportunities

Participate in the PRME
Pedagogy Certification
Series

Contribute to your SIP
Report

Join the PRME Commons as an Individual

<u>Connect your Students to</u> <u>PRME Students, oikos, etc.</u>

Engage in your Chapter

Bring PRME to TWO (or more!) New Members of your School

In the **UK & Ireland Chapter** specifically, individuals and schools can:

- Participate in one of the many events hosted by the Chapter annually (stay up-to-date by joining the <u>Chapter Mailing List</u>).
- Engage with their Local Network.
- Submit entries to one or more of the three Chapter competitions (the Faculty Innovative Pedagogy Competition, the Faculty Research Seed Funding Competition, and the Student Writing Competition).

























The feedback following the conference was extremely positive, with 100% of respondents to the post-event survey rating the overall quality as "excellent".

In regard to the organisation of the conference, respondents were particularly satisfied with the venue and facilities, registration process, pre-event communication, and accessibility and inclusivity. In terms of the conference content, delegates found the keynotes to be inspiring, informative, and challenging. The paper sessions, practical workshops, and active, hands-on activities were described as memorable and impactful. To illustrate, one respondent commented, "The keynote and panel sessions were superb, and the Queen's uni team did a fantastic job at asking thought-provoking and important questions that really helped us get maximum insight into the panellists' work, research, and expertise. Also, huge congrats on grouping the talks so well – the papers presented during the sessions complemented one another so well". Another added, "I loved everything – super hospitality, organisation, key notes, theming and quality of presentations/workshops – cannot fault anything!".

In regard to specific highlights from the event, feedback included:

- "The guest-speakers and the facilitated discussions were absolutely outstanding."
- "I think it was great having the opportunity to network and the idea of extra activity of the walking tour on the Tuesday afternoon was brilliant."
- "The panel discussions were very interesting. I particularly enjoyed the student activist guest talk on the Wednesday. His passion and the topic of the delivery was fantastic, both inspiring and enriching. The student invitation was great as it 'brought back home', why we educators are doing what we do. The pre-conference activities were great, I really enjoyed learning more about Belfast and having the opportunity to network with others prior to the conference. The mindfulness session on the Thursday was also a nice touch, it was very serene and just what I needed".
- "I thought the awards at the dinner was a real highlight. I also thoroughly enjoyed the strong sense of place that was established with the keynotes/panels they were all fantastic! Bringing in a recent student voice and discussing pertinent geopolitical challenges was an excellent idea. Lastly, I really appreciated how many people were joining from policy/practice contexts, which added a rich layer of value to the conference and the conversations over lunch and tea breaks. An all round absolutely brilliant job!".

We look forward to an equally successful PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Conference in 2026!





















About PRME

The <u>Principles for Responsible Management Education</u> (PRME) is a United Nations-supported initiative established in 2007 that aims to raise the profile of sustainability in business and management education through Seven Principles (below) focused on serving society and safeguarding our planet.

PRME engages business and management schools to ensure they provide future leaders with the skills needed to balance economic, environmental, and social goals, while drawing attention to the <u>UN Sustainable Development Goals</u> (SDGs) and aligning academic institutions with the work of the <u>UN Global Compact</u>. Driven by its mission to transform management education, PRME equips today's business students with the understanding and ability to deliver change tomorrow.















The Principles of PRME, as well as those of the UN Global Compact, offer a framework for continuous improvement in business practices and education focused on fostering sustainability and ethical conduct. These principles guide organisations toward achieving the SDGs. While the SDGs have specific timelines, the Principles are designed for ongoing guidance, promoting long-term sustainability.

As a voluntary initiative with over 850 signatories worldwide, PRME has become the largest organised relationship between the UN and management-related higher education institutions.

About PRME Chapter UK & Ireland

Established in 2013, <u>PRME Chapter UK & Ireland</u> (UK & I) is a member-based organisation that serves as a focal point of coordination for the UK and Ireland based signatories of PRME. We work with higher education institutions and related bodies to support the integration of PRME and the advancement of the SDGs. The Chapter currently has over 90 institutional members and is led by a thirteen-person Steering Committee elected by the membership.

We seek to nurture a mutually supportive community of committed responsible management educators and researchers. Members benefit from a Chapter-wide event programme, a growing set of <u>Local Networks</u> each with its own event schedule, and three annual Chapter-wide competitions, namely the Seed Funding Competition for Developing Innovative Pedagogic Approaches and Teaching Practices in PRME, the Faculty Research Seed Funding Competition, and the Responsible Business and Management Student Writing Competition.

Since 2014, PRME Chapter UK and Ireland has hosted an Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting at various member institutions, providing a platform for discussing innovations and challenges in responsible management education. Since 2021, the chapter also offers a Doctoral Colloquium, allowing PhD and DBA students to receive feedback on their work, to network, and deepen their understanding of PRME's Seven Principles and the UN SDGs.

Full details of Chapter activities can be found on the <u>Chapter Website</u>. See also our <u>10th Anniversary Report</u>, published in 2023 highlighting a decade of action to advance responsible management education.



About Queen's Business School

<u>Queen's Business School</u> (QBS) at <u>Queen's University Belfast</u> (QUB) was honoured to host the 2025 PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Conference.

Business education has been delivered at Queen's since the 1960s, with Queen's Business School taking its present form in 2007. Today, around 200 teaching and administrative staff support approximately 2,600 students. QBS delivers a wide portfolio of undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes across Accounting, Economics, Finance, and Management. Since 2011, it has also been home to the William J. Clinton Leadership Institute (WJCLI), offering an extensive range of executive education programmes designed to develop leaders at every stage of their careers.

Located at the historic <u>Riddel Hall</u> site just a short walk from the main QUB Campus in South Belfast, the School's facilities include multiple teaching and learning spaces, a trading room, an entrepreneurial hub, an executive lounge, an onsite café and communal spaces, as well as staff and PhD offices.

QBS's mission is to educate and explore for the benefit of business and society and its vision is to be pivotal in developing principled and effective leaders; to expand research-led dialogue and engagement with business, civil society, and government; and to grow international stature and esteem. The School believes that it has a vital role to play in the transformation of Northern Ireland towards a more prosperous, inclusive, and outward-looking society, and in reshaping the local economy.

QBS is accredited by EQUIS, AMBA, AACSB and the Small Business Charter, holds an Athena SWAN Bronze Award, and has served as a PRME Champion institution since 2020.









On behalf of the PRME UK and Ireland Chapter, we extend our gratitude to the following individuals for their exceptional contributions, which have made the event a resounding success and a significant milestone for the business and management higher education community.

For organising the 2025 PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Doctorial Colloquium:

- Dr Rachel Welton, Nottingham Trent University
- Ethan Keene, Nottingham Trent University

For organising the 2025 PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Conference:

The Queen's Business School PRME UK & Ireland Conference Organising Committee

- Co-Lead: Dr Laura Steele
- Co-Lead: Dr Denise Currie
- Co-Lead: Kelly Tagg
- Dr Lisa Bradley
- Dr Alan Hanna
- Dr Stephanie Graham
- Dr Xinwu He
- Dr Sara Melo
- Dr Stuart McClure
- Dr Laura Mazzola
- Heike Schröder-Altmann
- Dr Jelena Vlajic

For supporting communications and logistics across the event:

- Anna Egan, Manchester Metropolitan University
- Dr Marc Duffy, Ulster University
- Jackie Hicken, Birmingham City University

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Advait Angawalkar	Nottingham University
Akriti Chowdry	Munster Technological University
Alessandro Merendino	Queen Mary University of London
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Alison Currie	Intertrade Ireland
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Caroline Chapain	University of Birmingham
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Joanne Murphy	University of Birmingham
Johanna Clancy	University of Galway
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Rick Mukhopadhyay	Middlesex University
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Rohan Cheema	Nottingham University
Rosalyn Marron	Manchester Metropolitan University
Sally Chan	Leeds University

Sarah Williams	Liverpool John Moores University
Sergio Botelho Junior	South East Technological University
Shelia Killian	University of Limerick
Shirley Howe	Munster Technological University
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Join our Mailing List here.

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PRME Chapter UK & Ireland Steering Committee 2024-2025

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