



WORKSHOPS

TECHNICAL CONFERENCE 2024

Lancaster University

Tuesday 10th September

Thank You to our Key Sponsors



Session One: Workshop 1 (Frankland Lecture Theatre)

Challenges faced by AI Practitioners



Dr Marie Oldfield & Murray Webster
Institute of Science & Technology

Theme: Artificial Intelligence



About the workshop

Learn more about what challenges AI Practitioners face and how we can solve them. Calls for legislation and regulation are accelerating the pace with which we need to assess our accountability. Working with AI and modelling affecting society means you need to not only showcase your skills but prove that you have robust methodology when it comes to your practice. How can you do this effectively?

We will also discuss a live, funded project related to this presented by Murray Webster. Our work here is focused on developing open-access, free, continuously updated resources for the public and professionals to stay informed about developments in the world of AI and the choices they make about how they interact with AI.

Session One: Workshop 2 (Cavendish Colloquium)

Creative Practitioner Registration - insights



John Paul Ashton-Kinlin
Institute of Science & Technology

Theme: Creative Technologies



About the workshop

Professional registration is a viable way of evidencing your skills, knowledge and continuing development aims. With the support of Creative UK, IST have created a professional registration vehicle for technicians working in a creative role and encourage all creative technicians and practitioners to become registered. This talk will include a video from one of our first registrants, Alan Copley, showcasing their work and why they became registered.

Session One: Workshop 3 (Faraday Lecture Theatre)

Safety at 50: Navigating Workplace Health & Safety Since 1974



Natalie Kennerley, Naomi Bates, Tiziana Denaro & Alex Sleat
Manchester Metropolitan University

Theme: Health & Safety



About the workshop

This session highlights the 50-year milestone of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and takes a look at current Health & Safety practices within Manchester Metropolitan's key research areas.

Session One: Workshop 4 (Margaret Fell Lecture Theatre)

A Technical Perspective - our experience of running sustainability projects in research laboratories



Hannah Briers & Richard Gammons
University of York

Theme: Sustainability
& Green Technology



About the workshop

This talk will reflect on our journey and experience to date of implementing sustainability improvements in a research lab environment. This will include an introduction to the initial findings of our RSC Sustainable Laboratories Grant project in sustainable solutions to laboratory water management. We'll also discuss smaller sustainability initiatives we have implemented, challenges we have faced and our experience working collaboratively with graduate students in order to drive change towards a more sustainable laboratory environment. There will also be the opportunity for participants to share their sustainability initiatives at their own institutions and exchange best practice.

Session Three: Workshop 5 (Cavendish Lecture Theatre)

I'm not a teacher, I'm a technician..... or am I?



Sarah Youde, Peter Bentley & John Baum
Cardiff University & Lancaster University

Theme: Technical Careers



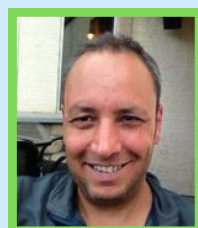
About the workshop

The paper by Wragg et al, Journal of Further and Higher Education, 2023, highlighted the number of technicians carrying out vital teaching activities in HE.

Based on responses to a survey of technicians, two thirds of respondents had no training in teaching and less than one fifth had an externally recognised qualification. One type of formal recognition is the AdvanceHE fellowship scheme. This session will discuss how Cardiff and Lancaster Universities support their technicians to gain these qualifications.

Session One: Workshop 6 (FASS Meeting Room 2&3)

Design & operation of Class I, II & III Microbiological Safety Cabinets



Mark Beviss
Contained Air Solutions

Theme: Health & Safety



About the workshop

Mark will explain the operational design principles, airflow, filtration and safe operation of Class I, II & III Microbiological Safety Cabinets. The session will go into detail to describe how each cabinet type provides the required protection performance to the requirements of EN 12469:2000, how air enters and exists the cabinets, filter positions and good practice when using Safety Cabinets in an operational laboratory.




Session Two: Workshop 7
(Frankland Lecture Theatre)

Whither Large Language Models (LLMs)



Dr Richard Saldanha
Institute of Science & Technology

Theme: Artificial Intelligence 

About the workshop


Large Language Models (LLMs) are now all the rage but how do they work exactly and do they really represent artificial intelligence? It turns out that LLMs are inherently statistical, essentially word prediction with a little random variation thrown in. That somewhat simplistic explanation rather hides the fact that the output from these models is often rather remarkable. This is a follow-on seminar from the one Richard gave at Oxford University in December.

Session Two: Workshop 8
(Cavendish Colloquium)

The Challenges for Creative Arts Technicians in HE



Graeme Shaw & David McBride
Brunel University London & Lancaster University

Theme: Creative Technologies 

About the workshop


Graeme Shaw (Brunel University London) and David McBride (Lancaster University) sit down to discuss the challenges of working in the Creative Arts in HE - points of discussion include managing the expectations of staff and students, delivering success, fatigue and wellbeing. Are these challenges systemic of the creative arts industry at large, the HE sector in general or our respective institution's?

Session Two: Workshop 9
(Faraday Lecture Theatre)

Health Innovation at Lancaster



Glyn Jones
Lancaster University

Theme: Health & Safety 

About the workshop

Lancaster University made a significant investment in building the Health Innovation Campus with the aim of creating a collaborative hub for Health partnerships in the North West. This talk will look at the progress made in the last 4 years.

Session Two: Workshop 10 (Margaret Fell Lecture Theatre)

Experimenting with Extreme Cold



Richard Haley
Lancaster University

Theme: Sustainability
& Green Technology



About the workshop

How do we cool materials as close as we can to absolute zero, -273.15 degrees Celsius, and what does their behaviour at extremely low temperatures tell us about the Universe.

“The pursuit of extreme cold is a never-ending quest towards the “infinity” of the absolute zero of temperature at a very chilly -273.15 degrees Celsius. The element helium plays a pivotal role in this conquest. Initially discovered as a mystery spectral line in the Sun (“Helios”), it was later isolated on Earth as a rare gas and first liquefied just over 100 years ago, at 4 degrees above absolute zero”.

Session Two: Workshop 11 (Cavendish Lecture Theatre)

Papyrus mental health training and support



Christine Shaw
PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide

Theme: Technical Careers



About the workshop

Chris will provide a Suicide Prevention Awareness, Resource, Knowledge (SPARK) session which is an introduction to PAPYRUS and suicide prevention. The key objectives are to increase awareness of suicide and suicide prevention, provide information about PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide as a charity, develop Hope and encourage action for a suicide-safer community and to finish with an understanding of the importance of self-care. www.papyrus-uk.org

Session Two: Workshop 12 (FASS Meeting Room 2&3)

Selling unwanted laboratory equipment with Uni Green Scheme



Michael McLeod & Ben Glazier
UniGreenScheme

Theme: Sustainability
& Green Technology



About the workshop

Helping labs be more efficient, sustainable and safe. Featuring real university case studies.

In 2015 PhD student Michael McLeod was asked to help with a summer lab clear-out and empty cupboards of unwanted research equipment into an electrical skip. Frustrated seeing this good equipment going to waste, he launched UniGreenScheme - a service to collect, store and sell unwanted equipment for universities.

UniGreenScheme

Session Three: Workshop 13
(Frankland Lecture Theatre)

We Should Be Arguing About Unit Tests



Sarah Wise
University College London

Theme: Artificial Intelligence



About the workshop

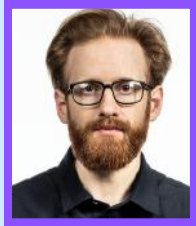
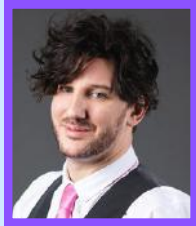
An Agent-Based Example of How We Can Understand Our Creations.

This workshop will provide a gentle introduction to the concepts of unit testing and an example of how it can be used in conjunction with agent-based modelling to perform verification and validation.

“Briefly, unit testing is an approach to building software over the long term so that pieces of code designed to work a particular way continue to function as intended, even as new features are added”.

Session Three: Workshop 14
(Cavendish Colloquium)

Technical Services’ role in delivering capital projects at Manchester Metropolitan



Morvarid Randjbar, Leighton Moody & Evan Wilson
Manchester Metropolitan University

Theme: Creative Technologies



About the workshop

This workshop will highlight the involvement of Technical Services staff in design, specification, and delivery of the School of Digital Arts (SODA). The issues that were encountered as work was completed and building opened to students and staff. We will share how we deliver skills sessions, work to create a student community within the building and how Technical Services have met the challenges and demands of such state-of-the-art building. We will discuss the Initial plans, ambitions, budget planning and drawing up persuasive business cases.

Session Three: Workshop 15
(Faraday Lecture Theatre)

Chemical and Safety Sheet Management



Chris Williams & Kathryn Draper
SISO Software

Theme: Health & Safety



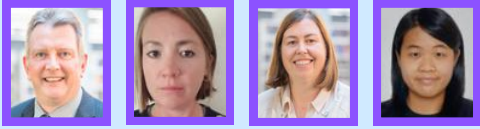
About the workshop

This talk will demonstrate new features currently in development that are aimed to make the management of Chemicals and Safety Sheets a lot easier to organise and track in one system. This is a chance to see what we have in development but also our plans for the future.



Session Three: Workshop 16 (Margaret Fell Lecture Theatre)

Lancaster's journey to net-zero carbon



Paul Morris, Georgiana Allison,
Anna Cockman & Avery Chong

Lancaster University

Theme: Sustainability
& Green Technology



About the workshop

The University commitment to net-zero by 2025 is a significant challenge. The first stage of the journey is to virtually eradicate the use of natural gas as a fuel with the delivery of a 12 Megawatt Solar Farm and a 7 Megawatt Heat Pump energy centre. These projects with the support of a £21M grant from the Green Heat Network Fund and internal University Capital funding of circa £40M will allow the existing centralised district heat system to move away from large gas boilers to large scale heat pumps.

The session will cover the journey so far, our commitment, the challenges we face and the delivery of these projects over the next 3 years.

Session Three: Workshop 17 (Cavendish Lecture Theatre)

Research Technical Professional Pathway at the University of Liverpool – 18 months on



Jan Brett
University of Liverpool

Theme: Technical Careers



About the workshop

We launched our research technical professional promotional pathway in February 2023, and have now completed two rounds of applications for staff to join the pathway. In this talk I will discuss why and how we introduced the pathway along with the data from the first two cohorts to apply, case studies of those successful along a discussion of lessons learned and top tips

Session Three: Workshop 18 (FASS Meeting Room 2&3)

Technical Career Pathways: a clear route to progression



Sara Bacon & Dr Ian Tidmarsh
National Technician Development Centre
& Manchester Metropolitan University

Theme: Technical Careers



About the workshop

The session will introduce the recent developments in the NTDC HETT Technical Career pathway framework; and the project work involved in the creation and implementation of the pathway with a focus on the current project work on the National Education Technical professional pathway

An interactive part of the session will ask which challenges/progress technical professionals have experienced in their use of technical career pathways.



Georgiana ALLISON

Lancaster University

Dr Georgiana Allison is the Head of Sustainability at Lancaster University. She is responsible for achieving the University's strategic aim of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2035. Prior to joining Lancaster, she held lecturing positions at the University of Leeds and Leeds Beckett University, teaching postgraduate and undergraduate students in sustainability and consultancy, and sustainability and construction. Before that, she was the Regional Sustainability Manager at Willmott Dixon Construction.



JP ASHTON-KINLIN

Institute of Science & Technology

JP is the IST Executive Support Consultant and Director of several SMEs. JP worked as a technician for 8+ years before moving into a more operational role with a big emphasis on learning effective marketing and recruitment strategies. He is a Registered Scientist with the Science Council and Trainer, Assessor and Mentor. JP is based in Sheffield and Manchester, but you may see him attending events or organisations across the UK at an IST stand or talking about Professional Registration and how awesome and useful CPD is as one vital way of becoming more transferable.



Sara BACON

National Technician Development Centre

As the Centre Manager for the National Technician Development Centre, Sara works with a core team and a range of specialist advisers to help Universities to create a sustainable future for their technical staff. This includes training courses, CPD and networking events, career pathways framework and a bespoke skills, roles and responsibilities survey. After completing a PhD in Bioinorganic Chemistry Sara moved into industry working for Croda Chemicals as a research chemist and then as a product manager in the research and development section. Sara then became a Data Manager where she managed a team on the implementation of a new SAP system to increase efficiency and improve productivity within the company.



Naomi BATES

Manchester Metropolitan University

Naomi recently joined Manchester Metropolitan University after graduating there over 30 years ago in Applied Chemistry. She worked as an industrial chemist for ICI and Unilever, before being given the opportunity to follow a career path as a health and safety professional back in 1997, during a period of profound change within the chemical industry. Naomi subsequently worked as a health, safety and environment manager for a UK medical device manufacturer.



John BAUM

Lancaster University

John has worked in industrial and academic research labs since 1978 with brief decade long outing as a mature student into academia (BSc chemistry-PhD bio-organic chemistry). Then 5+years stint as contract chemist for Syngenta and Astra Zeneca before joining Reading university as teaching technician in 2005. He has remained a teaching technician since then, focusing on synthetic chemistry teaching labs and general outreach. This work at Reading, Oxford, and Lancaster has been recognised with various contribution awards and some national awards: RSC technician of the year 2013, a member of the RSC Outstanding Chemistry Technical team 2020 and the Lord Bhattacharya Lifetime Achievement Papin Prize at HETS 2019.



Peter BENTLEY

Lancaster University

Peter supports the Mass Spectrometry and Separations facility in the Department of Chemistry at Lancaster University. His role is diverse, where he supports students and researchers in the analysis of their compounds, manages and conducts maintenance on the equipment and supports teaching in the analytical chemistry modules. He has recently started working at Lancaster University but has over 10 years' experience working in technical roles in HE. His academic background is in Environmental Science, where he achieved a PhD in Environmental Management, whilst working at UCLan. During his technical position at UCLan, he had the opportunity to accomplish the Associate Fellowship of the HEA.



Mark BEVISS

Contained Air Solutions

Mark Beviss is the Northern Technical Sales Manager for Contained Air Solutions. Based in Manchester CAS is the UK's largest manufacturer of a wide range of Microbiological Safety Cabinets, laminar flow equipment and associated clean air products. With over 30 years experience Mark has a wealth of knowledge in the correct selection, operation and safe use of Microbiological Safety Cabinets to the requisite national and international standards and guidelines.



Jan BRETT

University of Liverpool

Jan is the strategic technical lead in Faculty of Health and Life Sciences at the University of Liverpool. She collaborates with technical managers to help 350+ technicians at Liverpool in career progression, technical development, and workforce planning. She also oversees laboratory sustainability, plus health & safety; making their faculty the best it can be to deliver excellent teaching and research. She is part of Liverpool's Technician Commitment steering group and sits on the steering group of their University Technical Network. She is a Chartered Scientist through the IST, where she is also a Fellow and a member of the Executive board. She is also a Specialist Advisor to the National Technician Development Centre.



Hannah BRIERS

University of York

Hannah is currently on secondment as Deputy Technical Operations for the Department of Chemistry, University of York. Prior to this she was the Technical Manager of the Green Chemistry Centre where she carried out and facilitated research in the conversion of waste biomass into high value products. She has a PhD in Wastewater Engineering and was awarded RSci by the Royal Society of Chemistry in 2023.



Avery CHONG

Lancaster University

Avery is the Energy Manager at Lancaster University. This involves Energy Management, Heat Network & Heat decarbonisation, Renewable energy, Smart buildings / IoT and Utilities procurement & forecasting. Prior to working at the University, she worked as a Senior Energy Officer at Knowsley Council. She has a key role in the delivery of the University commitment to net-zero Scope 1 & 2 (energy) by 2030 and Scope 3 (Travel and Procurement) by 2025.



Anna COCKMAN

Lancaster University

Anna is Head of Estate Development (Project Delivery) at Lancaster University. She has a key role in the delivery of the University commitment to net-zero Scope 1 & 2 (energy) by 2030 and Scope 3 (Travel and Procurement) by 2025.



Tiziana DENARO

Manchester Metropolitan University

Tiziana joined Manchester Metropolitan University in early 2019 with the position of Technical Service Facility Manager for the Manchester Fuel Cell Innovation Centre. She has a master's degree in applied physics and PhD in Materials Science and Electrochemistry with a focus on Environmental and Energy applications. Tiziana has a broad experience in both private and public research, having covered scientific roles for leading companies and academia. Her background covers numerous electrochemical technologies including hydrogen generation technology, fuel cells and photovoltaics. Having a qualification in safe management of hydrogen, means she is the main expert of reference for the management of hydrogen H&S at MMU's facilities.



Kathryn DRAPER

SISO Software

Kathryn is part of the SISO software team. We are a highly experienced UK based software house established over 20 years ago. Our focus is on developing and refining products that address the unique and intricate requirements of booking systems for industries such as higher education, media, science & technology, and healthcare. We work hard to understand your objectives and current issues, creating a bespoke configuration and implementation plan with you. This ensures you get the maximum benefits rapidly and effectively.



Richard GAMMONS

University of York

Richard is the Technical Team Leader at the Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence, the University of York. He specialises in analytical chemistry, single crystal XRD and supports the taught Masters cohort of students in Green Chemistry. He also co-leads the GCCE Sustainability team and has professional registration (RSciTech) awarded by the Royal Society of Chemistry.



Ben GLAZIER

UniGreenScheme

Ben Glazier is the co-founder of UniGreenScheme. They started the service whilst Michael was working as a post-graduate student at the University of Birmingham. Since the launch of UniGreenScheme nearly ten years ago, the service has grown from bootstrap start-up to now employing 30 staff across two operational sites. Each year, every UniGreenScheme team member prevents the equivalent electrical waste of throwing away 530 working microwaves. Or saves the equivalent carbon emissions of planting 550 trees.



Richard HALEY

Lancaster University

Rich Haley works in the Ultra-Low Temperature Laboratory in Lancaster University Physics, where record-breaking microkelvin refrigerators are designed and constructed, building on the expertise, infrastructure and technical capabilities that have been developed and refined over many years. His research runs from blue-skies experiments on superfluid helium-3 at temperatures close to absolute zero through to the technology transfer of refrigeration, instrumentation and ultra-sensitive measurement techniques. Recent highlights include the discovery of fluid flows breaking the "superfluid speed limit" and setting a new record for electron temperatures in nano-fabricated on-chip devices.



Glyn JONES

Lancaster University

Glyn brings almost 35 years' experience in health-related business development roles to the team and spent five years in NHS innovation management at Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust, where he won a £1.7m NHSE Innovation Test Bed grant to set up the Lancashire and Cumbria Innovation Alliance. He is an Entrepreneur in Residence and Honorary Teaching Fellow at Lancaster University Management School. He takes a collaborative and catalysing approach to his work as Partnership Development Manager, removing boundaries to create the best team for any given initiative.



Natalie KENNERLEY

Manchester Metropolitan University

Natalie is Technical Services Development Manager at Manchester Metropolitan University and former Director of the National Technician Development Centre. She began her technical career 30 years ago – her passion is to promote technicians as a skilled, valued and recognised sector – the "Hidden Heroes" of academia. In her previous role at the University of Sheffield, Natalie created the technician's network "TechNet" which has now been rolled out as a national initiative. In her role, Natalie's responsibilities include developing and delivering workforce development strategies and management of change initiatives for the University's faculty-based Technical Services in support of the strategic objectives of the University.



David MCBRIDE

Lancaster University

David McBride, LICA Technician - Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts, Lancaster University. David graduated from the University of Regina with a BFA (Theatre) in 2003 and Lancaster University with a in MA (Professional Contemporary Arts Practice) in 2009. He has worked in three different continents in technical roles that have bridged the boundary between professional practice and academic work around the creative arts with a focus on live events. For over the last 10 years David has been at LICA where he has supported students, academics, and professional companies in various stages of creation, research and performances. David is interested in the stories that we (humans) tell, who gets to tell them and how they are told.



Michael MCLEOD

UniGreenScheme

Michael McLeod is the co-founders of UniGreenScheme. They started the service whilst Michael was working as a post-graduate student at the University of Birmingham. Since the launch of UniGreenScheme nearly ten years ago, the service has grown from bootstrap start-up to now employing 30 staff across two operational sites. Each year, every UniGreenScheme team member prevents the equivalent electrical waste of throwing away 530 working microwaves. Or saves the equivalent carbon emissions of planting 550 trees.



Leighton MOODY

Manchester Metropolitan University

Leighton has worked at Manchester Metropolitan University since 2012. Over the past thirteen years, he has been instrumental, as part of a team effort, in the developing and implementation of the modern Technical Skills programme in the Faculty of Art & Humanities, covering all 4 pillars of the faculty (School of Art, SODA, Humanities and Manchester Fashion Institute). The Technical Skills catalogue has grown and diversified exponentially in recent years, now boasting over 240 individual modules, covering disciplines such as Photography, Filmmaking, VR, CGI, UX, Graphics, Animation.



Paul MORRIS

Lancaster University

Paul Morris is the Director of Capital Development and Estate Operations at Lancaster University. His key strengths are in Estate and Masterplan development and a wide and diverse range of hard and soft FM Services. Paul is experienced and qualified in: Estate Management, Construction Project delivery both new Build and Refurbishment, Soft FM Services delivered to P&L Business Plans, Hard FM Maintenance, Building Services, PPM, Health, Safety and Environmental Excellence. Paul has a key role in the delivery of the University commitment to net-zero Scope 1 & 2 (energy) by 2030 and Scope 3 (Travel and Procurement) by 2025.



Marie OLDFIELD

Institute of Science & Technology

Dr Marie Oldfield (APAI, CStat, CSci, FIScT, SFHEA) is the Senior Lecturer in Practice for MA425 Project in Operations Research & Analytics. Marie is Director of Oldfield Consultancy and Kuinua Coaching. Marie is a Fellow and Executive Board Member at the Institute of Science and Technology (IST), an Expert Fellow for Sprite+ and a member of the College of Peer Reviewers for Reprain. Marie is the Founder of the IST Artificial Intelligence Group and of the IST Women in Tech group. Marie hosts two podcasts, the first on AI & Technology and the second on Mindset & Leadership.



Morvarid RANDJBAR

Manchester Metropolitan University

Morvarid is Head of Audio & Vision at Manchester Metropolitan University. Her background and degree is in Computing and Mathematics. As a long-standing member of Technical Services at Manchester Met, she has worked at different levels and have seen the university and the service transformed particularly in the last decade. She looks after four technical teams ranging from Digital Technology team supporting Linux platform for research and teaching to Live Productions team supporting Manchester School of Theatre. Her other two teams; Digital Arts Innovation and Digital Arts Production work and collaborates very closely supporting faculty of Arts & Humanities.



Richard SALDANHA

Institute of Science & Technology

Dr Richard Saldanha is an expert in both statistical machine learning and quantitative finance. Richard is also an experienced R and Python user, which he uses for teaching and research purposes. Richard holds a doctorate (DPhil) in graph theory and multivariate statistics from the University of Oxford. He is a Fellow and Chartered Statistician (CStat) of the Royal Statistical Society; a Science Council Chartered Scientist (CSci); and a Fellow and Advanced Practitioner in Artificial Intelligence of the Institute of Science and Technology – FIScT(AI).



Christine SHAW

PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide

Christine Shaw is a Community Development Officer at PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide. Since joining PAPYRUS in 2018, she has been using her experience as an ex-teacher and youth worker to develop relationships and upskill communities in suicide prevention across the North West.



Graeme SHAW

Brunel University London

Graeme graduated from Brunel University London with BA-hons (Music) and now works as both a technical specialist and technical manager for Digital Arts for the College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences. For over 20 years, Graeme has provided technical demonstration and support for Digital Performance in Theatre and Sonic Arts in Music as well as day-to-day support for staff and students across the Arts and Humanities. He is an Apple Certified Professional for Logic Pro X and achieved Associate Fellowship to the Higher Education Academy in 2019. Most recently Graeme was invited to meet staff and students at Tokyo University of the Arts to talk about his interest and on-going research into creating contemporary performance using gesture-controlled sound.



Alex SLEAT

Manchester Metropolitan University

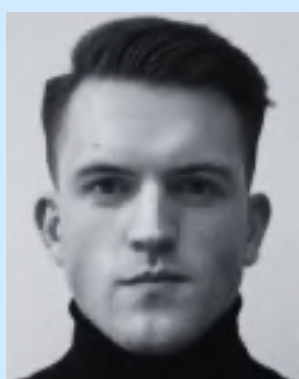
Alex Sleat is a Technical Facility Manager at the Robotics Living Lab at Manchester Fashion Institute and has a background in research, development, and implementation of robotics with over 12 years of experience between industry and academia. He has worked with a variety of sectors from marine robotics to physically assistive robotics, and smart technology for people with aging related impairments. In his current role he works in a multidisciplinary team to explore more sustainable approaches for fashion manufacturing, and generate novel ways of stitching, cutting, pressing and repairing garments through the use of collaborative robotics.



Ian TIDMARSH

Manchester Metropolitan University

Dr Ian Tidmarsh has 10 years' experience in the development and implementation of career pathways for technical staff. He has been the NTDC's Career Pathway Lead since the Centre's establishment in 2018. Prior to that, Ian was a Project Lead for the TDM Project (2014-2017) delivering the HE Technical Taxonomy (HETT) Framework. This is regularly updated and has been used by 30 universities to date. Ian is also Deputy Director of Technical Services at Manchester Metropolitan University with responsibility for both strategy and operations. Before moving to Manchester, Ian held the roles of Head of Operations (Collaborative Teaching Laboratory), College Infrastructure Manager, Technical Manager at the University of Birmingham.



Murray WEBSTER

Institute of Science & Technology

Murray has an MSc in European Studies, and an MA in Theoretical Philosophy. His MSc dissertation concerned the European Union's digital policy towards artificial intelligence and blockchain, highlighting critical weaknesses in its approach. He studied previously at the University of Glasgow and graduated with first-class honours in English Literature and Philosophy. Murray's research interests concern the interactions between planetary-scale computational systems and structures of socio-political governance.



Chris WILLIAMS

SISO Software

Chris is part of the SISO software team. We are a highly experienced UK based software house established over 20 years ago. Our focus is on developing and refining products that address the unique and intricate requirements of booking systems for industries such as higher education, media, science & technology, and healthcare. We work hard to understand your objectives and current issues, creating a bespoke configuration and implementation plan with you. This ensures you get the maximum benefits rapidly and effectively.



Evan WILSON

Manchester Metropolitan University

Evan is Technical Manager at Manchester Metropolitan University where he leads a team spanning the Arts and Humanities faculty. His background is in Music and Video Production. Previously he was a Technical Specialist who played a crucial role in establishing the technical groundwork for the new School of Digital Arts (SODA) building. His team supports a broad range of disciplines across Filmmaking, Photography, Games Art, Future Media Production and Animation. He is responsible for ensuring the seamless operation and advancement of technical infrastructure to support the faculty's diverse educational needs.



Sarah WISE

University College London

Sarah Wise is an agent-based modeller working at the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis in University College London. She earned her PhD in computational social science from George Mason University in 2014, and focuses on spatially explicit simulations of evacuations or logistics. A long-time volunteer with the Missing Maps Project, she is an enthusiastic Open Street Mapper and member of the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap community.



Sarah YOUDE

Cardiff University

Sarah obtained her degrees BSc(hons) and PhD from Cardiff University. She continued this work before developing her skills as a Cancer Research postdoctoral research fellow researching CD8+ T cell responses to HPV in the department of Infection and Immunity. She has several first author papers and has presented at national and international conferences. Her first role in the dental school was as a biomedical scientist providing technical support for a group working on dental pulp stem cells before becoming tissue culture specialist. The department runs two MSc courses, where she lectures and provides practicals and subsequently supervises students during their six-month lab based projects for these courses.

Thank You

Thank you again to all those who have carried out a workshop or delivered a keynote this year at the Conference. The thoughts, opinions and expertise are their own and they have put a great deal of time of detail into their talks to give delegates new and interesting insights, into their own work or into something they are particularly interested in. If you are interested in being involved with our Conference in 2025, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the IST office by emailing office@istonline.org.uk.

About the IST Conference

The IST has been supporting the technical workforce in the creative, digital, engineering and science technologies for over 75 Years.

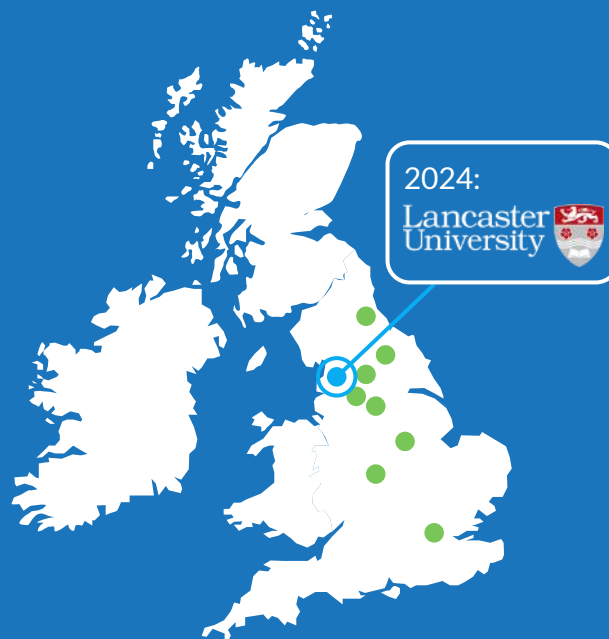
Our aim is to make the Institute all embracing and, in order to achieve this, help/advice networks, skills training, specialist forums, recognised qualifications, continuing career development opportunities and guidance will be available to the membership.

Recognition of professional standing is high on our agenda and, most importantly, expansion of the vibrant community of specialist, technical and managerial colleagues who will work together to help make a difference and shape the future.

Our Annual Conference plays a vital role in giving technicians the opportunity to network with other technical staff and managers from across the UK, as well as providing the chance to take part in a National event or deliver a presentations or talk.

Previous Conferences:

- 2023 - London
- 2022 - York
- 2021 - Hybrid
- 2020 - Online
- 2019 - Birmingham
- 2018 - Newcastle
- 2017 - Leicester
- 2016 - Manchester
- 2015 - Leeds
- 2014 - Sheffield



We always aim to move around the country to give as many technicians the opportunity to attend our Conferences in future.

If you are interested in taking part in next years Conference, either being part of the organising committee, giving a talk or showcasing your specialist area, please contact us at office@istonline.org.uk.

We hope you enjoy the day at Lancaster University.