



JANUARY 2025

NEWSLETTER

WOMEN RESEARCH NETWORK

WELCOME NOTE



Dr Bridget Irene

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year and welcome to the January edition of our Women Research Network Newsletter! 🎉

As we step into 2025 with renewed energy and ambition, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for being part of this growing and vibrant community. Your dedication to research, innovation, and entrepreneurship continues to inspire and shape impactful conversations worldwide.

This year, we remain committed to fostering collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and meaningful change through our network. Whether you are an ordinary member, an active researcher in our lab, or a woman entrepreneur seeking research-driven business insights, there is a place for you in this community. Let's continue to support, uplift, and empower one another.

In this edition, we highlight exciting opportunities, upcoming events, and key insights, including a special feature on the Women Empowerment Network (WEN), a remarkable initiative dedicated to uplifting women through education, mentorship, and community engagement.

I encourage you to stay engaged, explore our latest updates, and take advantage of the incredible resources available within the network. Don't forget to subscribe to our monthly newsletter if you haven't already!

Wishing you all a productive, fulfilling, and empowering year ahead!

Warm regards,

Network Director

✉ info@womenresearchnetwork.org | 🌐 Website | 📺 Facebook | 📺 YouTube | 📺 Twitter

www.womenresearchnetwork.org

Spotlight on the Women Empowerment Network (WEN)



Kathleen Harris-Leighton
WEN, CEO & Chair

In the heart of Leicester, the Women Empowerment Network (WEN) stands as a beacon of inclusivity and support for women from all walks of life. Established in 2023 by community leader and businesswoman Kathleen Harris-Leighton, WEN has swiftly garnered recognition, clinching five awards, including the Best Community Leader Award in December 2024. The organization's mission is clear: to provide a safe and nurturing environment where women can share experiences, develop skills, and amplify their voices in both business and community spheres.

WEN's commitment to empowerment is evident through its diverse range of transformative courses, such as Employment Readiness, Overcoming Stress & Anxiety, and Reducing the Weight with Kathleen. These programs are designed to equip women with the tools they need to thrive personally and professionally.

The network's impact is further highlighted by its recent nomination for Community Organisation of the Year at the Leicestershire Community Champion Awards 2024. This acknowledgment underscores WEN's dedication to fostering unity, harmony, and progress within the community.

For those interested in joining this life-changing network, WEN offers membership opportunities that promise to support ambitions, motivations, and personal development. As Kathleen aptly puts it, "Together as communities, what can't we achieve? What mountain can't we move if we do it together; removing all prejudices and forming alliances to ensure YOU are at the heart of what we do."



Community Engagement



The Women Empowerment Network (WEN) plays a vital role in managing the Community Hub at the Haymarket Centre in Leicester, creating an inclusive and welcoming space for all. Through a diverse range of activities - including arts, crafts, workshops, training sessions, festive events, and informal gatherings - WEN fosters community engagement, support, and well-being. Whether attending a structured event or simply enjoying a cup of tea or coffee in a safe and friendly environment, community members are always welcome to connect, learn, and relax.



Volunteering at WEN

WEN is looking for reliable and trustworthy volunteers to join the organisation. The volunteer's responsibilities include completing tasks assigned by the supervisor, upholding the organisation's values, and maintaining a high degree of professionalism with all stakeholders. They would be expected to arrive on time, follow instructions, and improve the overall operations of the organisation.

To learn more about WEN's initiatives, upcoming events, or to become a member, visit their official website: <https://wen.uk.com/>

Empowered women empower women.

Member Spotlight



Dr Palesa Charlotte Félix-Faure, the founder of the Inclusive Entrepreneurship Academy, put her money where her mouth is, on the 16th of December 2024, and organised a free business workshop for the unemployed youth of Mohlakeng township in Johannesburg. Due to the high unemployment rate, with the majority of high school graduates struggling to find employment, she encouraged them to consider starting their own businesses to improve their socio-economic conditions.

Dr Charlotte rented the location community hall, and spent a full day giving a workshop on entrepreneurship and professional development. The purpose of this first initiative and subsequent ones through the Inclusive Entrepreneurship Academy, is to create a vibrant township entrepreneurship ecosystem and circular economy leading to a sustainable economic development.

For more information please contact Dr Charlotte directly via LinkedIn messages.



Member Appointment

Olamide O. Falehin, Associate Lecturer at University of the West of Scotland has been elected to the British Academy of Management (BAM) Full-Time Doctoral Representative position on the BAM Council for 2025



Call for Volunteers: Shape the Future of the Women Research Network!

We're excited about the journey ahead and the opportunities to grow and strengthen our community. To make our events and initiatives even more impactful, we're inviting members to step forward and contribute to the planning and hosting of future activities.

As a volunteer, you'll have the chance to:

- **Shape Events:** Help design engaging webinars, workshops, and networking sessions that align with our mission.
- **Showcase Your Expertise:** Take on hosting roles or lead sessions where you can share your knowledge and skills.
- **Build Connections:** Collaborate with other dynamic women researchers, fostering relationships that could lead to future research opportunities.
- **Enhance Your CV:** Gain valuable experience in event planning and leadership, which can enhance your professional profile.

Whether you're interested in brainstorming ideas, coordinating logistics, or being a panellist or moderator, there's a role for you! No prior experience is necessary—just enthusiasm and a willingness to contribute.


If you'd like to get involved, please reach out:
info@womenresearchnetwork.org




Upcoming Events


Join Us for an Engaging Webinar on Bridging Academia and Policy!

 Date: 28 February 2025

 Time: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM GMT

 Location: Online

 Speakers: Chux Daniels, PhD
Alison Price and Endrit Kromidha

 Host: Prof Joan Lockyer

Explore how cutting-edge research can directly influence policymaking and drive impactful societal change. This is an incredible opportunity for academics, policymakers, and practitioners to connect, learn, and collaborate.



The Women Research Network, in conjunction with WEN and De Montfort University, will be hosting the 1st Women's Entrepreneurship Summit 2025. The summit will bring together women entrepreneurs throughout the East Midlands and around the UK with the twin goals of bringing new, passionate women into the field of entrepreneurship and providing mentorship for women entrepreneurs in the East Midlands. This full day of immersion in learning, training, and networking will emphasise how women can make effective changes on the personal, community, and national levels.



2nd Entrepreneurship Colloquium

We invite submissions for poster presentations at this event, which will take place on July 10th, 2024, at De Montfort University, Leicester



2ND ENTREPRENEURSHIP COLLOQUIUM CALL FOR POSTERS



The Institute for
Responsible Business
and Social Justice

Theme: Inclusive Entrepreneurship in a Digital and AI-driven Economy: Innovation, Ethics, and Opportunity

As technology continues to redefine global economies, it brings unprecedented opportunities for innovation while simultaneously raising ethical challenges around equity and inclusion. This colloquium examines how digital transformation, and AI can empower entrepreneurs to create inclusive solutions, bridge societal divides, and foster opportunities across diverse communities.

The event will delve into themes such as the ethical implications of AI, the role of digital tools in promoting equity, and strategies to ensure that underrepresented groups are not left behind in the digital economy. Through engaging presentations, panel discussions, and poster sessions, the colloquium will spotlight research and practical initiatives that demonstrate how inclusive practices can drive innovation and create sustainable value in entrepreneurship.

We invite academics, practitioners, policymakers, students, and industry leaders to participate in a vibrant discussion on fostering inclusive entrepreneurship in the age of digital transformation and artificial intelligence (AI). The colloquium will explore how innovation and technology can bridge societal divides, create equitable opportunities, and address the ethical challenges of a rapidly evolving economy.

The 2025 Colloquium will explore how digital transformation and artificial intelligence are reshaping entrepreneurship, focusing on fostering inclusivity, innovation, and ethical practices. Keynote addresses will examine the intersection of AI and entrepreneurship, the ethical implications of digital innovation, the opportunities for marginalized groups in a tech-driven economy, and the role of inclusive policies and practices in driving equitable growth.

Join us to share groundbreaking research, innovative practices, and actionable strategies that champion inclusion while driving sustainable innovation.

We invite submissions for poster presentations at this event, which will take place on **July 8th, 2024, at De Montfort University, Leicester**. Participants should submit a (a) 8–10-word title, (b) a 25–50 word abstract of their presentation, (c) a 1–2-page summary of the presentation, and (d) 2–5 keywords describing your poster. Please also include the category of poster, primary presenter's contact name and contact details, affiliation, and name of additional presenters.

Questions and themes to explore:

- AI and Digital Tools for Promoting Inclusive Entrepreneurship
- Bridging the Digital Divide in Entrepreneurship
- Women Entrepreneurs in the AI-driven Economy
- Inclusive Design and Accessibility in Entrepreneurship
- Ethical Entrepreneurship in a Digital World
- Digital Inclusion for Rural and Underserved Communities
- Entrepreneurial Ecosystems for Inclusion
- The Role of Policy in Driving Digital Inclusion
- Inclusive Digital Marketing and Customer Engagement
- AI-driven Solutions for Social Good
- Sustainability and Inclusion in the Digital Economy
- Youth and Digital Inclusion in Entrepreneurship
- Global Perspectives on Inclusive Entrepreneurship
- Blockchain and Financial Inclusion in Entrepreneurship
- Leveraging Big Data for Inclusive Innovation

Abstracts should indicate the track and should be sent to bridget.irene@dmu.ac.uk

Presentations can be Online or Face-to-face. Please indicate your preference when you register!

Annotated Time Frames

Call for Abstracts
1st February 2025

**Abstract
submission
deadline**
31st March 2025

**Notification of
acceptance**
30th April 2025

Registration opens
1st May 2025

Event Day
8th July 2025

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