

BAM 2026
CONFERENCE



Critical Management Studies Track

Track Chairs

- Prof. Sarah Robinson, IESEG Paris
- Prof Martyna Sliwa, University of Bath
- Dr Ron Kerr, University of Edinburgh
- Dr Sylwia Ciuk, Oxford Brookes University

We invite papers for BAM2026 from scholars who wish to join and advance conversations and debates relating to the main research agendas within the field of Critical Management Studies. We welcome papers which challenge and disrupt conventional management ideas and assumptions. We are open to authors who wish to write differently and those who draw on other disciplines for theoretical and methodological inspiration. We encourage both conceptual and empirically based papers which ask challenging and thought-provoking questions and advance our thinking about organising, organisations and society at large.

In response to this year's conference call, we would like CMS track participants to critically engage with conceptual, empirical, methodological and ethical issues associated with the overall conference theme of *Thriving Together: Impact, Innovation, and Inclusion in Business and Management*. More specifically, we want to stimulate debates on inclusion and exclusion, the unintended consequences of innovations, the role of the discourse of innovation and change in legitimising power, and the accepted definitions of impact. We also welcome critical approaches to 'thriving': who or what is thriving? Who or what is benefiting? If the organisation must thrive, at whose expense and or at what cost? How can employees, managers and leaders thrive with in organisations? And what happens if they don't?

We encourage submissions that address, but are not limited to, the following questions:

- How does the rhetoric of innovation affect people within and outside organisations?
- What are some of the 'dark sides' of the emphasis of management and organisations on promoting inclusions and exclusions, and how do they play out in everyday processes of organising, leading and managing?
- How can we critically interrogate depictions of thriving, and how are they translated into different contexts and specific organisational and political agendas?
- What role does power and control play in deciding who (and/or what) can thrive?
- What can we learn from alternative and grassroots organising about and for thriving?

- What is the role of leadership, collective action and affect in such processes?
- How can coaching, and other interventions, promote human and organisational thriving?
- How does diversity and inclusion feature in such transformations?
- What role can Critical Management scholars play in helping organisations thrive, given the tensions between security and globalisation?
- How can these tensions be researched and how can the resulting critical insights facilitate positive change?
- What are challenges and opportunities of navigating the boundaries between academic activism for human thriving and scholarly work?

Finally, as in previous years, we also welcome papers that reflect on current challenges facing critical scholarship generally but also more specifically those that reflect on the experiences of Early Career Academics in doing and publishing critical research and in enacting critical management education.