

48th AIB-UK & Ireland Annual Conference

Organised jointly with

8th Reading Conference

Contemporary Issues in International Business: Inequality, Geography and GVCs

8-9 April 2022

Call for papers

We are delighted to be hosting the 48th AIB-UKI Annual Conference, jointly organised with the 8th Reading International Business Conference.

The joint conference will combine the best elements of both events. We intend to maintain the Reading tradition of open-ended debates as well as interactive plenary sessions and at the same time we will maintain the tradition of the AIB-UKI conferences to encourage a broader variety of papers to the parallel sessions. We will also offer a pre-conference doctoral colloquium and dedicated sessions for early career and doctoral researchers.

The theme for the conference is **Contemporary Issues in International Business: Inequality, Geography and GVCs**

As we enter 2022, the economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have made even more obvious the growing economic inequalities between geographic locations and individuals. MNEs are key actors in globalization, not only through trade and investment, but also as coordinators of GVCs. By both passive and active means, MNEs can influence opportunities for workers, both within their hierarchies as well as those of their suppliers and customers. However, it is often argued that MNEs are primarily responsible to their stakeholders, and as such social injustices are not always within this remit, despite the talk of corporate social responsibility and SDGs. MNE-coordinated GVCs face challenges in enforcing higher labour standards, working conditions, and environmental protection of contractual, lower-tier suppliers. In some instances, this has seen a return to internalization and a resultant increased vertical integration. We will focus on two related questions: First, to what extent is reinternalization a 'good' outcome, and second, to what extent can MNEs really help to reduce inequalities within GVCs?

MNEs have also a role to play in spatial inequalities. Cities have become prominent locations for MNE investment, especially in knowledge-intensive activities and this has contributed to the process leading to a winner-take-all economic geography. It has been observed that MNEs can

substitute local connections with international ones. This can exacerbate the local disconnectedness between the city and its surroundings. However, MNEs are also known for their potential contribution to local spawning engaging with the local entrepreneurial eco-system to create and renew local connectedness. The COVID-19 pandemic has severely hit cities and could bring about a series of social changes in the structure and morphology of cities, suburbs and metropolitan regions which might affect its attractiveness to MNEs. Could this lead the way to the emergence of intermediate cities and contribute to reducing the inequality between cities?

Our panelists will discuss the role of the MNE for inequality and the limitations of GVCs.

The Conference welcomes theoretical and empirical papers which respond to the main theme of the Conference. As in previous years, paper submissions that go beyond the Conference theme are welcome and can **encompass all areas of international business**.

VENUE AND LOCATION

The conference will be hosted at Henley Business School at the Whiteknights Campus. The gala dinner and reception will be held at our amazing and historic Greenlands Campus.

The Whiteknights campus is located about two kilometres from the Reading railway station and town centre. The venue is easily accessible by car and public transport. For suggestions on hotel accommodation, please see the conference website at <https://www.aib-uki.org/conference.html>

Reading is served by regular rail services and is well connected to central London and Heathrow.

CONFERENCE PRIZES

There are several prizes awarded at the conference:

- *John Dunning Lifetime Achievement Award*
- *Palgrave Macmillan Prize* for the best paper
- *Pavlos Dimitratos Best Dissertation Award*, sponsored by the Adam Smith Business School, University of Glasgow.
- *Peter J Buckley & Pervez N. Ghauri Prize* for the paper by an Early Career Researcher, sponsored by the Leeds Business School.
- *Michael Z Brooke Doctoral Prize* for the best paper by a doctoral student.
- *Neil Hood and Stephen Young Prize* for the Most Original New Work in the doctoral colloquium.

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

- A selection of conference papers will be published in the AIB UK & Ireland Palgrave Macmillan book series (<https://www.aib-uki.org/book-series.html>).

KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

The Main Conference will begin in the **morning of Friday 8th April 2022** and close on Saturday 9th April 2022 by 5pm. Several **pre-conference activities** will be organised, including the AIB-UKI Doctoral Colloquium and Paper Development Workshops. More information on these activities and a preliminary outline of the Conference Programme will be available at <https://www.aib-uki.org/conference.html>.

- 17 December 2021** Submission of papers/extended abstracts opens
- 31 January 2022** Submission for Main Conference deadline
- 11 February 2022** Submission for Doctoral Colloquium and panel proposals deadline
- 1 March 2022** Notification of submissions review decisions
- 7 March 2022** Presenter registration deadline
- 15 March 2022** Publication of the conference programme
- 23 March 2022** Standard fee conference registration deadline

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

The Conference will host both **competitive and poster** sessions. Competitive sessions are reserved for presentation of research at a relatively advanced stage of development. The poster session is reserved for research that is at an early stage of development. During the submission process, authors will be asked to choose whether their submission is to be considered for a competitive or for a poster session. Accepted submission will ultimately be allocated to either type of sessions after considering suggestions of referees.

Please note that:

- As a part of the paper submission process, authors will be required to sign up as reviewers.
- Submission to the Main Conference cannot also be submitted to the Doctoral Colloquium.

Full papers or extended (SMS-style) abstracts can be submitted to the Conference.

Papers should not exceed 10,000 words for competitive papers and 2,000 words for posters, excluding tables, references and appendix.

Extended abstracts should not exceed a total of 7 pages/4,000 words (5 pages for the body which can include charts, graphs, diagrams, etc. and up to 2 pages of references).

References are required and must be included in the submission file. Please submit your proposal in PDF format or MS Word and make sure all information which might reveal authors' identity and affiliation are removed from the submission.

All submissions must include an abstract of max. 150 words, and should conform to the JIBS style guide, available at http://www.palgrave-journals.com/jibs/style_guide.html.

Please note that **only full papers are eligible for best paper awards** at the Conference. Authors that submit an extended abstract will need to provide their final papers by 23 March 2022.

Please visit <https://www.aib-uki.org/conference.html> to begin your submission.

Proposals for special panel sessions are welcome and should be sent to dunning@henley.ac.uk, by 11 February 2022. Panel sessions are intended to serve as discussion forums for issues of contemporary interest to IB scholars. They are sessions organised as a single submission by the panel chair around a common theme. Proposals must include:

- the proposed title of the Panel Session
- the organizer(s), contact information and affiliations
- the significance of the related contributions (max 1000 words)
- the participants' contact information, affiliations, presentation/paper titles and short abstracts (max 100 words per abstract).

DOCTORAL COLLOQUIUM

The Academy of International Business UK & Ireland Chapter organises the colloquium for PhD students. The colloquium will be held at Henley Business School on **Thursday 7 April 2022**.

Instructions for submission at the Doctoral Colloquium will be available at <https://www.aib-uki.org/conference.html>. For more information, please contact the Doctoral Colloquium Convener Dr. Surender Munjal on S.Munjal@lubs.leeds.ac.uk.

FEES

	Standard*	Late**
Regular delegate (does not include Gala Dinner on 8 April 2022)	£ 250	£ 300
PhD student (does not include Gala Dinner on 8 April 2022)	£ 135	£ 185
Gala Dinner on 8 April 2022 (optional)	£ 65	N/A

* Until 23 March 2022

** After 23 March 2022

All conference delegates must have a **valid membership of the Academy of International Business**. Information on AIB membership is available at <https://www.aib.world/membership/>.

CONTACT

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For further details visit us at <http://www.aib-uki.org/>