

Making connections
60 years of Sussex



Research Partnerships Conference

Technology • Health and Wellbeing
• Sustainability • Equality and Justice

9 March 2022

US
UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX

Join us this March, in our 60th year, as we celebrate the University of Sussex's research partnerships. Academics from Sussex and many of our international partners will be sharing highlights from decades of research collaborations, focused around the following themes:

- Neuroscience and Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Sustainability
- Health and Wellbeing
- Equality and Justice

Engage with world-leading experts on topics ranging from AI and the human brain, to migration, education and global health. Sussex has been ranked 1st in the world for Development Studies (*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021*) for the past five years. At this conference, we'll be hearing from global experts about the University's research partnerships on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Some of the world's foremost researchers will share details of their collaborations, showcasing the impact of partnerships and cross-disciplinary research.

Programme Outline

OPENING PLENARY

08:30–09.30

Although the United Kingdom is no longer a member of the European Union, it still aims to be a partner in its flagship research funding programme, Horizon Europe. Hear from Professor David Sweeney, the Chair of one of Britain's largest research and innovation councils about the UK's funding and research priorities. Sussex and sector leaders will reflect on what this means for international research partnerships worldwide.

Special Guest Speaker: **Professor David Sweeney**, Chair, Research England

Event Chair: **Professor Keith Jones**,
Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research, University of Sussex

Host: **Professor Richard Follett**, Associate
Vice-President International, University of Sussex

NEUROSCIENCE AND AI

11:00–12.00

The Brain, Mind and Consciousness

What can AI learn from the brain? How can we use AI to better understand the brain and consciousness? Hear how partnerships with world-leading researchers in Canada, Australia and across Europe are providing insights into how brains make sense of the world, give rise to consciousness and enable intelligent behaviour; and, in turn, how these insights create advances in AI and robotics.

EQUALITY AND JUSTICE

12:00–13.00

Part I: Thai-Western Mobilities, Migration and Development

For the past eight years, researchers from the Sussex Centre for Migration Research and Mahidol University Thailand have studied intimate transnational social relationships between 'ordinary' people that arise from the large-scale mobilities between Thailand and 'the West'.

This includes Thai women who marry and move with older Western men, Westerners who move to Thailand to retire or for leisure, and Thai rural families transformed by these migrations.

Part II: Conflict, Politics and Education

Education and violent conflict are linked to each other in multiple and complex ways. While education communities and systems are often negatively affected by violent conflict, education systems can also contribute to the conditions under which conflict emerges. Researchers from the UK, South Africa and Kazakhstan are working with early career researchers in Africa and Central Asia to support the development of locally grounded research and analysis to support education policy in conflict-affected contexts.

SUSTAINABILITY

14:00–15.00

Tropical forests as critical zones for the SDGs

What new approaches are combining nature conservation with public health in tropical forests? What cutting-edge research technologies are helping to better understand indigenous cultures and forest ecosystems? Hear how researchers from the UK, together with counterparts in Oceania and Latin America, are tackling these and other critical questions about the world's tropical forests.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

15:00–16.00

Addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases

Researchers from Sussex and partners in Ethiopia, Rwanda and Sudan are tackling some of the world's most neglected diseases, delivering positive impact for vulnerable communities in East Africa. Find out more about the collaborations that have made this possible.