Work and Equalities Institute Seventh Fairness at Work Conference: Challenges for Fair Work and Equality in an Age of Transformation

The University of Manchester
20–21 January 2027

Call for Papers

Abstract deadline: Friday 13 November 2026 (extended deadline)

The Work and Equalities Institute (WEI) is pleased to announce its Seventh Fairness at Work (Fairwrc) Conference, held as part of the Institute's 10th anniversary celebrations.

The world of work is being reshaped by rapid technological change, environmental transition, demographic shifts and evolving forms of employment and organisation. These transformations raise urgent questions about fairness, equality, wellbeing, worker voice and the future of decent work. In this context, multidisciplinary dialogue among diverse actors and projects is vital for identifying sustainable directions and addressing the challenge of developing an inclusive, transformative language of fairness, grounded in concrete initiatives, commitments and accountabilities.

Addressing these issues is central not only to social justice but also to sustainable economic development, inclusive growth and democratic renewal. Reflecting WEI's commitment to interdisciplinary research and engagement, the conference brings together academics and practitioners to explore the changing world of work and the policies, institutions and practices needed to support fairer and more inclusive futures.

The conference is organised around **three interconnected challenges**, which draw on WEI's research themes of **work futures; fairness and wellbeing in the workplace; equality, diversity and inclusion; and regulation and representation**.

Conference themes

Technological challenges to fair and decent work

- Artificial intelligence, automation and digitalisation
- Platform work and algorithmic management
- Skills, training and workforce transitions
- Productivity, innovation and job quality
- Hybrid, remote and flexible work

Environmental challenges to healthy and sustainable work

- Climate change and labour markets
- Just transitions and green jobs
- Occupational health, safety and wellbeing
- Sustainable work and organisational practices
- Environmental inequalities and local/global transitions

Challenges to equality, fairness and representation at work

- Socio-economic inequalities and equality, diversity and inclusion
- Intersectionalities
- Spatial inequalities and place-based initiatives
- Worker voice, trade unions and collective bargaining
- Employment regulation, labour standards and social protection
- Human rights, employment rights and dignity at work

We invite contributions that engage with these themes, related topics or with broader questions of equality, fairness and decent work. Contributions may be theoretical, empirical, methodological or practice-based, and may examine issues at micro, meso-, macro- or multi-level scales. Comparative and international perspectives are also welcomed.

Plenary Speakers

Plenary speakers include Professor Rae Cooper, Professor of Gender, Work and Employment Relations and founding Director of the Australian Centre for Gender Equality and Inclusion at Work, University of Sydney.

Registration fees:

£250 Waged/£50 Unwaged and low-waged

The fee includes conference attendance, refreshments, lunches and the conference dinner.

We look forward to welcoming you to Manchester in January 2027 for two days of discussion, debate and collaboration on the future of fair work and equality.

Submission information

Please submit either:

- a **500-word abstract** for an individual paper, or
- a **1,000-word proposal** for a themed session or stream.

Submissions should be sent to **fairwrc@manchester.ac.uk** by **Friday 13 November 2026 (extended deadline)**.

Work and Equalities Institute Seventh Fairness at Work Conference:

Challenges for Fair Work and Equality in an Age of Transformation

The University of Manchester
20–21 January 2027

Call for Papers

Abstract deadline: Friday 30 October 2026

The Work and Equalities Institute (WEI) is pleased to announce its Seventh Fairness at Work (Fairwrc) Conference.

The world of work is being reshaped by rapid technological change, environmental transition, demographic shifts and evolving forms of employment and organisation. These transformations raise urgent questions about fairness, equality, wellbeing, worker voice and the future of decent work. In this context, multidisciplinary dialogue among diverse actors and projects is vital for identifying sustainable directions and addressing the challenge of developing an inclusive, transformative language of fairness, grounded in concrete initiatives, commitments and accountabilities.

Addressing these issues is central not only to social justice but also to sustainable economic development, inclusive growth and democratic renewal. Reflecting WEI's commitment to interdisciplinary research and engagement, the conference brings together academics and practitioners to explore the changing world of work and the policies, institutions and practices needed to support fairer and more inclusive futures.

The conference is organised around **three interconnected challenges**, which draw on WEI's research themes of **work futures; fairness and wellbeing in the workplace; equality, diversity and inclusion; and regulation and representation**.

Plenary Speakers

Plenary speakers include Professor Rae Cooper, Professor of Gender, Work and Employment Relations and founding Director of the Australian Centre for Gender Equality and Inclusion at Work , University of Sydney.

Conference themes:

- Technological challenges to fair and decent work
- Environmental challenges to healthy and sustainable work
- Challenges to equality, fairness and representation at work

We invite contributions that engage with these themes, related topics or with broader questions of equality, fairness and decent work. Contributions may be theoretical, empirical, methodological or practice-based, and may examine issues at micro, meso-, macro- or multi-level scales. Comparative and international perspectives are also welcomed.

Registration fees:

£250 Waged/£50 Unwaged and low-waged (includes conference attendance, refreshments, lunches and the conference dinner)

Submission information

Please submit either:

- a **500-word abstract** for an individual paper, or
- a **1,000-word proposal** for a themed session or stream.

Submissions should be sent to **fairwrc@manchester.ac.uk** by **Friday 30 October 2026**.

Please share the information and/or this email with anyone who may be interested. You can also find a conference page on the WEI Website which will be updated in due course.