



UKSCS / SCSi Conference 2025

Co-operation among Co-operators: The Irish-British Connection

Date: 21-22 February 2025

Location

Boundary – A Co-operative Brewery
A4-A7, 310 Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1HE

The UK Society for Co-operative Studies and the Society for Co-operative Studies Ireland invite you to attend this landmark event in Belfast in what represents an important moment in the development of the movement across these islands. The year 2025 has been identified as the International Year of Co-operatives with the theme of 'Co-operatives Build a Better World'. Consequently, the UKSCS and SCSi believe we have a one-off opportunity to bring co-operative knowledge and insights from across Ireland and Britain to understand how our movement plays a prominent role in this work.

The organisers ask delegates to consider what role co-operatives can play in building a better economy on these islands, particularly in the context of recent political developments as well as ongoing dialogue around Ireland's constitutional future.

A wide range of disciplinary and methodological approaches to co-operative questions will be considered, including, but not limited to, history, sociology, business, and economics. We particularly welcome papers from co-operative practitioners as well as researchers of the movement.

Potential themes and questions you may wish to consider in your proposals:

- How far have we prepared Co-ops to inspire the current generation and what steps are needed to ensure they remain relevant and inspirational for future generations?
- How can we increase the visibility of co-operatives?
- How does the future (and history) of education in co-operative development matter co-operatives today?
- What can an understanding of the relationship between a co-operative movement and the state reveal about the fortune and prospects for the movement in the different jurisdictions across these islands?
- What supports exist and are needed to drive co-operative development?

The organisers invite contributions from scholars from multiple disciplines and theoretical approaches, as well as from practitioners in the form of academic paper presentations, project presentations, thematic/sectoral panel proposals, and practical activities that advance our understanding on issues covered in this year's conference theme and beyond. Please create an abstract (maximum 750 words) and submit it by **15 December 2024** at membership@ukscs.coop.



Key Dates

Deadline for Proposals (Abstracts): 15th December 2024

Notification of Acceptance: 10th January 2025

Opening of Registration: 10th January 2025

Final Registration Date: 17th February 2025

Abstract format (suggested and if applicable):

Please organise your proposal/abstract so that it provides details that can be peer-reviewed (maximum 750 words):

- Title (for your presentation, paper, panel or practical activity)
- Corresponding author
- A short statement about the issue/question your submission addresses
- A summary of the approach you are taking to study the issue/question you raise
- A summary of your findings and/or contribution to knowledge
- References

UKSCS/SCSI Joint Committee:

Ireland

Anthony Barbour (SCSI)

Bridget Carroll (Treasurer, SCSI)

Peter Couchman (SCSI)

Patrick Doyle (Chair, SCSI)

UK

Stephen Gill (UKSCS)

Janette Hurst (UKSCS)

Elisavet Mantzari (UKSCS)