

# THE 57TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UK SOCIETY FOR CO-OPERATIVE STUDIES



Conference 2026: Fostering dialogue, shared learning, & collaboration around the future of co-operation

Fri 8th and Sat 9th May 2026

Edgbaston Park Hotel and Conference Centre at the University of Birmingham, UK



## OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Giuseppe Guerini, President of Cooperatives Europe, vice-president of ICA for the European Region, and chair of the EU Coordination Committee (left)

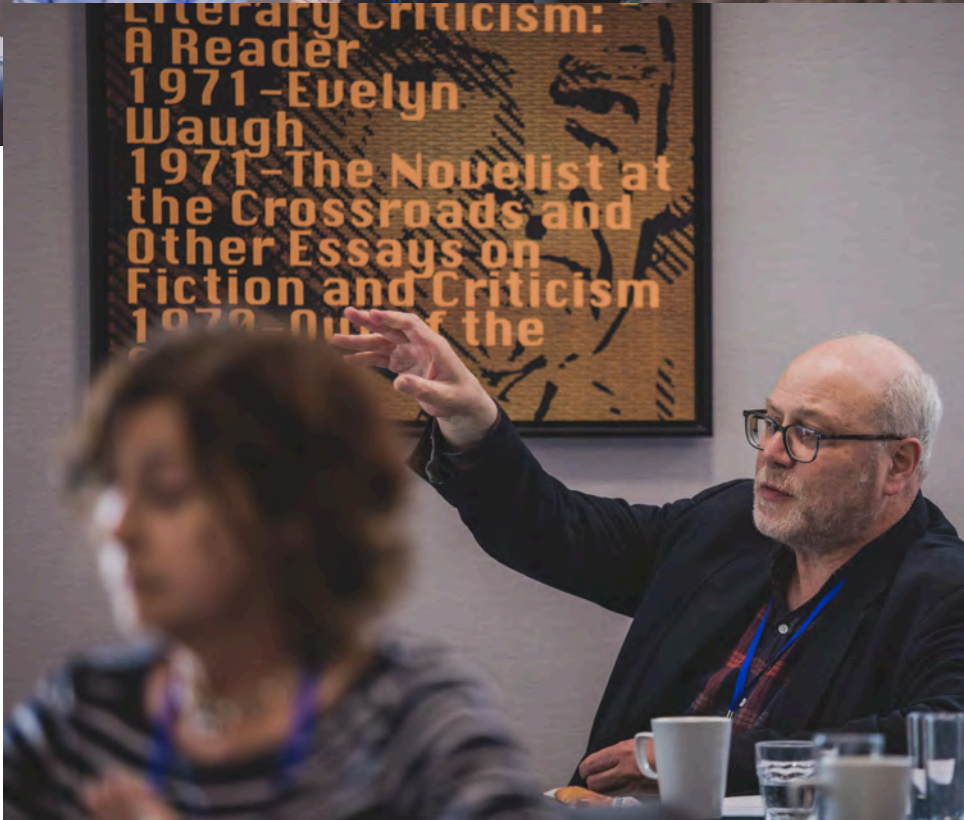
Dominic Kendal Ward, Group Secretary and General Counsel of the Co-op Group. Dominic originally joined the Co-op in 2017 as General Counsel of their insurance business (above)



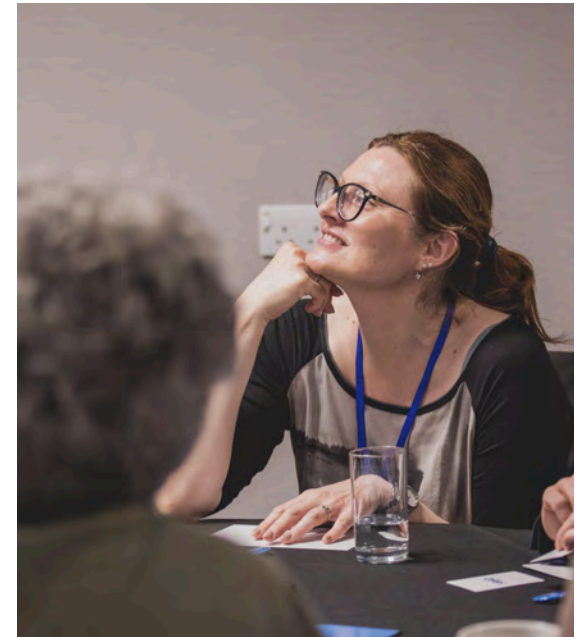




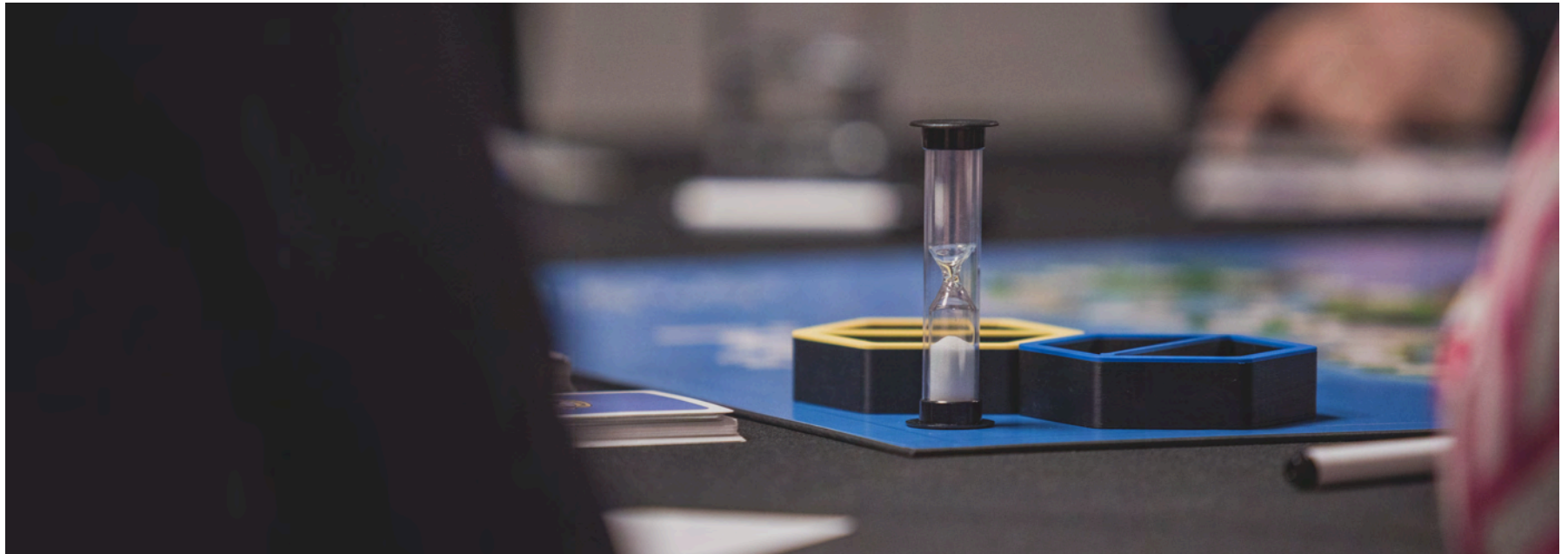














*Revolver*<sup>®</sup>



The conference brought together an inspiring community of scholars and partners from across the UK and internationally to explore the future of co-operation, sustainability, participation, and inclusive development. Across keynote sessions, papers, panels, and conversations, there was a real sense of openness, generosity, and shared purpose.

We left the conference with new conversations started, new collaborations formed, and renewed optimism about the role of co-operation in addressing today's societal challenges.

A huge thank you to our keynote speakers, presenters, delegates, sponsors and to our hard working conference organising committee - Elisavet Mantzari, Francesca Gagliardi, and Janette Hurst - for making the conference such a success. We're also grateful to everyone who travelled to Birmingham and helped make the event so memorable.

Thanks too to Candice Hipkiss for providing us with some wonderful photographic memories and who did a fabulous job at capturing the fact that we were having a pretty jolly time while discussing and thinking about some big questions!

We are grateful to the conference sponsors: Heart of England Co-operative Society, Revolver Co-op, Co-operative Group, and the University of Birmingham.



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