The Productivity Institute Academic Conference, Monday 14th September 2026

Please note the author presenting on the day is indicated in bold.

Time	Session
09:30–10:00	Arrival and registration
10:00–11:00	**Conference opening (Prof. Jun Du)** **Keynote: Francois Lafond**
11:00–11:20	Break
11:20–12:20	**Session 1A: Trade, services and productivity (Prof. Jun Du)** How is the UK repositioning itself within shifting global value chains? This session explores the implications of geoeconomic fragmentation and post-Brexit trade reorientation for UK exports of goods and services, and what these structural changes mean for firm-level productivity and competitiveness. • Jun Du, Oleksandr Shepotylo and **Yujie Shi**: ‘*Supply Chain Lock-in and the Selective Destruction of EU–UK Trade’* • **Julián Díaz-Acosta**, Tommaso Bighelli, Gee Hee Hong, Anh Dinh Minh Nguyen: *‘How Foreign Fiscal Policy Uncertainty Affects Productivity of European Countries’* • **Holger Breinlich**, Elsa Leromain and Martina Magli: *‘Mind the break-up: when policy disrupts firms' supply chains’* **Session 1B: Place (Prof. Philip McCann)** Regional disparities remain one of the UK's most persistent economic challenges. This session examines the geography of productivity, asking what place-based industrial strategy can realistically achieve and what conditions are needed for local economies to thrive. • **Doriane Mignon**, Matt Sutton, Luke Mumford: *‘Health Capital and Local Labour Productivity in England: Spillovers Through Commuting Networks’* • Raquel Ortega-Argilés, **Pei-Yu Yuan**, **Ming-Wei Hsu** and Philip McCann: *‘Public Digital R&D Funding and Regional Demand for Advanced Digital Skills in the United Kingdom* • **Carolin Ioramashvili**, Maria Savona: *‘Labour Market Dynamics, Knowledge Diffusion and Regional Productivity in the United Kingdom’* • **Nicholas Sweeney**, Jules Buckland: *‘Knowledge Decay in European OECD Regions: A Travel Time Approach’*
12:20–13:20	Lunch
13:20–14:20	**Session 2A: Workforce skills (Prof. Damian Grimshaw)** From AI adoption to an ageing workforce, the demand for skills is changing fast. This session examines what firms need, where the current system is falling short, and how policy can better support workers and employers through the transition. • **Adam Saunders**, Isobel Howard and James Robson ‘*Estimating Skills Investment Impact – Moving the Dial on Economic Growth with a Focus on the Eight Priority Sectors in the UK Government’s Industrial Strategy’* • **Damian Grimshaw**, Marcela Miozzo, Lourdes Sosa: *‘Bypassing Practices: The Ripple Effects of AI at Work’* • Yihui Cao, Thomas Triebs, **Justin Tumlinson**: *‘Switching to English to Attract Global Talent’*

	• **Asil Shatila**: *'Migration and AI Innovation: Evidence from the UK'* **Session 2B: Innovation and growth (Prof. Stephen Roper)** Innovation is a means to an end — enhanced value creation through productivity improvement and growth. This session focuses on the links between innovation and firm performance, and how policy can better support the effective exploitation of new ideas. • Sandra Lancheros Torres, Kausik Chauduri, Yi Pang and **Halima Jibril**: *'Beyond the First Grant: Assessing the Impact of Repeated Support from Innovate UK on Firm Performance'* • **Carolin Ioramashvili**, Nicholas Sweeney: *'Ticket to Impact: Estimating the impact of transport connectivity on collaborative research projects'*
14:20–14:40	Break
14:40–15:40	**Session 3A: Investment (Prof. Nigel Driffield)** Can domestic and foreign investment — guided by the Industrial Strategy and regional growth strategies — deliver the productivity gains the UK needs? This session examines the evidence and explores what more effective investment policy might look like. • **Niklas Lindlbauer**, Yasemin Kor, Kulwant Singh: *'The Adjustment–Stability Trade-Off in Resource Allocation: Implications for Productive Investment'* • Martin Andersson, **Davide Castellani**, Claudio Fassio, Viroj Jienwatcharamongkhol, Riccardo Marzano: *'MNEs and startup growth. Do good firms breed good startups?"* **Session 3B: AI and the economy (Prof. Paul Mizen)** Artificial intelligence is moving from experimentation into deployment across the economy. This session examines the early evidence on AI adoption and its effects on productivity, work and firm performance, and asks what data and methods researchers need to track an economy being reshaped in real time. • Ruveyda Nur Gozen, Suleyman Faruk Gozen, **Sezer Yasa**: *'Board Characteristics and AI Adoption'* • Diane Coyle, Nghi Nguyen, John Lourenze Poquiz, **Rebecca Riley**: *'More than just Plug and Play: Early Evidence on Organisational Capital and AI Adoption* • Xin Deng, Maria Garcia-Vega, **Cher Li**, Richard Upward: *'Artificial Intelligence Adoption and the Direction of Innovation'*
15:40–16:00	Break
16:00–17:00	**Closing panel: future directions for productivity research – chaired by Prof. Jun Du - Managing Director at TPI** What are the outstanding questions for UK productivity research, and what should the field prioritise next? • Tera Allas - Advisor at McKinsey and Honorary Professor at AMBS • Giles Wilkes - Senior Fellow - Institute for Government • Bart van Ark - Senior Fellow and Professor of Productivity Studies, Alliance Manchester Business School • Luke Mackle - Policy Fellow – OECD
18:00	Conference dinner