

# 2026 SDG & AI+ Academic Conferences

SDG

AI+

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Clare Hall, University of Cambridge

Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge

SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Conference: 31 July – 1 August 2026 (Fri–Sat)

AI+ (Artificial Intelligence Plus) Conference: 14 – 15 August 2026 (Fri–Sat)

Host Venues

Conference Date

## Host Venues

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### Clare Hall, University of Cambridge

Herschel Road, Cambridge CB3 9AL,  
United Kingdom

Clare Hall is a constituent college of the University of Cambridge. Founded in 1966 by Clare College, it is a college for advanced study, admitting only postgraduate students alongside postdoctoral researchers and fellows. Clare Hall is known for its high ratio of fellows to students and its notable community of Nobel laureates.



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### Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge

Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, CB3 0DF,  
United Kingdom

Murray Edwards College, founded in 1954 and renamed in 2008, is one of the University of Cambridge's colleges dedicated to women's education. It fosters a supportive and forward-thinking community for both undergraduate and postgraduate students, empowering women to become future leaders.



# Conference Overview

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Two non-profit, peer-reviewed academic conferences focusing on SDG and AI+ will be held in summer 2026. Professor David Cope and Professor Pietro Liò, both Clare Hall fellows, will act as the Academic Chair of each conference. The conferences will be administrated and delivered by UniHive.

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## The UN Sustainable Development Goals



Professor David Cope

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The UN Sustainable Development Goals provide a shared blueprint for tackling our era's most intertwined challenges—climate change, biodiversity loss, inequality, health, education and decent work. Yet progress hinges on credible evidence, workable finance, and accountable governance. This conference foregrounds those levers: robust disclosure and assurance, climate- and nature-related risk management, pathways for industrial decarbonisation, natural-capital accounting, and “just transition” outcomes. By convening researchers across policy, finance, engineering, ecology and the social sciences, we aim to test what truly delivers impact, identify gaps in data and indicators, and surface practical collaborations that move SDG commitments from ambition to measurable results.

## Artificial Intelligence +



Prof. Pietro Liò

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AI+ looks beyond algorithms to how AI is used and what it changes across society. We focus on applications and real-world impact in health and life sciences, education and skills, public services and cities, creative industries, finance and law, climate and the environment—alongside the governance, safety, fairness, and accountability needed for trustworthy deployment. Topics include evaluation in the wild, human-AI collaboration and accessibility, data stewardship and privacy, robustness and risk management, policy and regulation, labour and productivity effects, and inclusion to ensure benefits are broadly shared. By bringing technologists together with domain experts, policymakers, and civil society, AI+ emphasises evidence of outcomes, not just technical novelty—so AI advances translate into measurable public value.

Each conference is a two-day, scholar-led meeting featuring keynotes, invited talks, and posters. Talk/Poster titles and abstracts will appear online, and slides/recordings will be shared only with presenter consent.

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# Detail of The Conferences

## Pre-Conference Summer School

Prior to the conferences, two dedicated UniHive summer schools held at Clare Hall, Murray Edwards College and other Colleges will provide training and networking opportunities for students and early career researchers in areas related to the themes of the conferences. Chairs of both conferences and other senior Cambridge academics will be offering lectures and seminars to nurture and expand participants' interest, knowledge, research and academic skills in relevant areas.



## Conference Chairs



### Academic Chair – SDG

Prof. David Cope



### Academic Chair – AI+

Prof. Pietro Liò



### Organising Committee Chair

Prof. Casimir d'Angelo



### Organising Committee Deputy Chair

Dr. Ruigang Michael Zhou

# SDG Conference

**Dates:** 31 July – 1 August 2026

2026 – 07.31/[SAT]  
[FRI]/08.01

## Important Dates

- Call for Papers opens: 30 January 2026
- Poster abstract / Paper deadline: 31 May 2026
- Decisions: rolling basis
- Conference: 31 July – 1 August 2026

## Academic Chair:



**Prof. David Cope**

Foundation Fellow, Clare Hall College, University of Cambridge

Former Director of the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology at the UK Parliament

## Themes:

- Integrating the UN Sustainable Development Goals across policy, science, and practice
- Financing for sustainable development & risk (public/private, blended finance)
- Climate action, biodiversity, and nature-positive transitions
- Just transition, inclusion, and social outcomes (health, education, inequality)
- Social entrepreneurship and corporate responsibility
- Governance, regulation and law framework
- Renewable energy landscape and environmental science

And more...

## Call for Papers

Formats: Full papers for Presentation or Abstracts for Poster, in English.

Review: Double-blind; 2 reviews per submission.

Display: Accepted titles and abstracts will appear online; slides/recordings shared with consent.

# SDG Conference

## Invited Speakers:



### Prof. Matthew Grimes

Professor of Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Futures, University of Cambridge



### Prof. Patrick Baert

Professor of Social Theory, University of Cambridge



### Prof. Geoff Hayward

Professor of Education, University of Cambridge



### Prof. Catherine Barnard

Professor of European Law, University of Cambridge



### Prof. Andy Woods

Head of Institute for Energy & Environmental Flows , University of Cambridge

... and more

## Programme Outline

### Day 1

- ⌚ Morning
- Registration & Coffee
- Keynotes
- Presentation Session

### Day 2

### ⌚ Morning

- Parallel Session B  
(Presentation Session / Poster Session)

### Afternoon

- Keynotes
- Parallel Session A (Presentation Session / Summer School Student Poster Session)
- ⌚ Reception

### Day 2

### ⌚ Afternoon

- Panel Discussion
- Gala Dinner (Awards & Closing)

# Conference Overview

**Dates:** Dates: 14 – 15 August 2026

2026 – 08.14/[SAT]  
[FRI]/08.15

## Important Dates

- Call for Papers opens: 30 January 2026
- Poster abstract / Paper deadline: 31 May 2026
- Decisions: rolling basis
- Conference: 14 – 15 August 2026

## Academic Chair:



### Prof. Pietro Liò

Professor of Computational Biology, University of Cambridge  
Fellow of Clare Hall, University of Cambridge

## Themes:

- AI for science & graph neural networks
- Multimodal & vision
- Responsible AI & societal impact in various areas including:
  - Advanced manufacturing and engineering
  - AI-driven development of medicine, biomedicine, etc.
  - Smart city and infrastructure
  - AI in finance (big data)
  - Machine learning in materials science

And more...

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# Conference Overview

## Invited Speakers:



### Prof. Nic Lane

Professor of Machine Learning Systems, University of Cambridge



### Prof. Jason Robinson

Professor of Materials Physics, University of Cambridge



### Prof. Thomas Krieg

Professor for Experimental Cardiovascular Medicine, University of Cambridge



### Prof. John Orr

Professor of Structural Engineering, University of Cambridge



### Prof. Shasha Lu

Associate Professor in Marketing, University of Cambridge

... and more

## Programme Outline

### Day 1

#### Morning

- Registration & Coffee
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Day 1

#### Afternoon

- Keynotes
- Parallel Session A (Presentation Session / Summer School Student Poster Session)
- Reception

### Day 2

#### Morning

- Parallel Session B (Presentation Session / Poster Session)

Day 2

#### Afternoon

- Panel Discussion
- Gala Dinner (Awards & Closing)

# General Information

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## Registration

Please submit your registration through <https://forms.office.com/e/JzpMCzqZrq>, or scan the QR code below:



The Organising Committee will be in touch to complete the registration. The registration fees are:

**Students £180 | Faculty £300| Industry £500**

The fee covers full participation in the conference, including tea/coffee break, lunch, and dinners. The conferences are non-profit events; any surplus supports student awards and accessibility.

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## Accommodation

Participants are welcome to book their own accommodation. The Organising Committee can offer limited number of discounted accommodation on a first come first served basis.

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## Policies (apply to both conferences)

- Peer review: Double-blind; 2–3 reviews per submission; conflict-of-interest screening enforced.
- Responsible research & AI use: Language/model assistance must be disclosed; fabrication or falsification is prohibited.
- Data & privacy: UK GDPR compliant; minimal data capture; recording only with explicit consent.
- Code of Conduct: Zero tolerance for harassment; clear reporting and response pathways.
- Accessibility: Captions in plenary, hearing loop available, step-free routes and reserved seating, quiet room; dietary labelling at catered functions.

# Contact

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## Contact address:

**Attn: Prof. David Cope**

**Clare Hall, University of Cambridge**

**Herschel Road**

**Cambridge CB3 9AL**

**United Kingdom**

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 **Organising Committee - UniHive**

 **Email: [info@unihive.education](mailto:info@unihive.education)**

 **Phone: +44 1223 776118**

# **SDG & AI+ Academic Conferences**

## **2026**

