



# SEDarc

The South East Doctoral Training Arc

## Summer School Programme

# Impactful Research



Third Floor, Bramber House,  
University of Sussex

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July

# Schedule

12:00 - 12:50

## Registration and Lunch

Start your day by registering and collecting your materials. Enjoy coffee and sandwiches while networking.

12:50 - 13:00

## Director's Welcome

Our Director, Prof Kathy Rastle, will kick off with an overview of the day's agenda and goals.

13:00 - 14:00

## Keynote with Dr Joanna Miller-Smallwood

**The Rights of Nature: Advocating for the rights of the Andean Bear in the Ecuadorian Andes and peaceful co-existence with local communities through the establishment of secure land tenure and sustainable livelihoods.**

The Ecuadorian Andes is a global biodiversity hotspot, yet it is being deforested faster than most other places on earth, largely due to small-scale farming. Ecuador is a world leader in adopting constitutional provisions to protect the Rights of Nature (RoN) and has designated a network of protected forests, which are vital for the survival of the Andean (Spectacled) bear. However, these measures are often perceived locally as undermining the livelihood needs of local farmers and contributing to increased human-wildlife conflicts. Based on collaborative research with rural communities, alongside legal experts, local NGOs, and government agencies, this project addresses these issues by assessing the impact of land legalization processes and the RoN on local communities and conservation. Additionally, it will consider whether a novel RoN approach centered on individual animals has the potential to reduce socio-economic inequalities while improving wild animal welfare.

14:00 - 15:00

## Placements with Prof Emily Ma

This one-hour session will feature a range of information and engaging activities on professionalism in the workplace. Topics such as how to prepare and goals for placements, how to align placement experiences with your PhD, information and exercises on professionalism, and essential transferable skills in the workplace will be covered.

15:00 - 15:15

## Refreshments

15:15 - 16:15

## PGR Elevator Pitch

The first of two sessions where PGRs will present their PhD projects. See the information page at the end of this document for more details.

16:15 - 16:30

## Closing Remarks

Closing remarks from our Director.

18:00 - 20:00

## Dinner

Hosted in the Falmer Bar, you will be given a meal voucher during registration.

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July

# Schedule

8:00 - 9:30

## Breakfast

For those who have stayed in provided accommodation, breakfast will be available at Eat Central on the ground floor of the Bramber Building. Your room key card will work as a meal voucher.

9:30 - 10:00

## Registration and Refreshments

Start your day by registering and collecting your materials. Enjoy coffee and pastries while networking.

10:00 - 11:00

## An Introduction to Research Impact with Dr James Morland

From its influence on medical advances, technology, culture, public policy and the arts, research touches almost every aspect of our lives. But for researchers, it can often be difficult to transform what is on the published page into tangible change outside academia. This session offers an introduction to the core skills and knowledge of Impact, looking at how to identify impacts within your research and how it is measured and techniques for identifying your key research stakeholders. The session will also touch upon the range of different impacts that research can produce, and the distinctions between engagement and research impact.

11:00 - 12:00

## PGR Elevator Pitch

The second of two sessions where PGRs will present their PhD Projects. See the information sheet at the end of this document for more details.

12:00 - 13:00

## Lunch

13:00 - 14:00

## Blog Writing for Impact with Dr Emily Danvers

This workshop explores the value and purpose of blogging as a medium for sharing our research. We will first discuss the principles of effective blog communication before giving you a chance to do some writing of an 'emerging' blog on a topic of personal or professional interest. The goal is that you will leave the workshop feeling energised, encouraged and supported to finish and publish your blog in collaboration with others.

14:00 - 15:00

## PGR Elevator Pitch Challenge

Having paid close attention to your peers: during the Student Elevator Pitch Challenge, you'll identify colleagues whose research aligns with yours for potential interdisciplinary collaboration.

15:00 - 15:15

## Refreshments

15:15 - 16:15

## Learn about Culture with Dr Smadar Cohen-Chen

In this session we will be engaging in a team-based activity using a card game. No prior knowledge is needed, and we will be learning the rules in the session.

16:15 - 16:30

## Closing Remarks

Closing remarks from our Director.

# Speaker Information



## Dr Joanna Miller-Smallwood

Joanna is an associate professor and lawyer with a long-standing interest in nature conservation, animal rights and law. Her recent book: *Implementing International Environmental Law and Policy: An Interactive Approach to Environmental Regulation* (Routledge, 2024) focuses on transformative governance, she has also written on transformative governance of food production and consumption, tropical forests, invasive alien species and nature conservation. Her recent interests are on implementing legal and policy frameworks for the Rights of Nature in Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia and in the UK. She is developing a Rights of Trees, Woodlands and Forests toolkit with her students. She has been awarded funding and the 2024 Sussex University research culture award for her transdisciplinary work on the rights of the Andean bear in Ecuador. She is also involved in using a rights of nature approach in international biodiversity law for transformative governance.



## Dr Evan Killick

Evan is a Social Anthropologist by training who now conducts research and teaching in both Anthropology and International Development. He has over two decades of experience working with forest-based communities across Latin America. This work has included projects in Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador and Costa Rica but his core focus remains with Indigenous Peoples in Peruvian Amazonia.



## Dr James Morland

James is a research impact manager at the University of Sussex, where he acts as one of Sussex's subject matter experts in research impact and works across the university to promote good knowledge of the significance and nature of research impact. Before coming to Sussex, he was a postdoctoral researcher on the Wellcome-funded 'Pathologies of Solitude' project at Queen Mary, University of London where he worked on various public facing activities.



## Dr Emily Danvers

Emily is a Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor in Education. Her research interests are in the context, purpose and values of higher education and, specifically, questions of equity and social justice. She is an experienced research writing facilitator, with a passion for supporting students' learning.



## Dr Smadar Cohen-Chen

Smadar believes that social and organizational issues cannot be fully understood without considering psychological factors and phenomena. She asserts that psychology loses much of its relevance if it does not address real questions regarding the dynamics between people and groups. Her research focuses on the role of emotions in decision-making, conflict resolution, leadership and management, and negotiations. This includes both emotional experiences and emotional expressions. Dr. Cohen-Chen's work spans organizational, social, and political contexts, examining how these frameworks influence one another.



## Dr Raluca Popp

Through her involvement in the Industry and Doctoral Training Network (Marie Curie), Raluca developed an expertise in Voting Advice Applications (VAAs) and the use of large-scale datasets generated by these digital tools. Her research leverages VAAs to address key questions, such as examining issue alignment in European Parliament elections. She is also interested in a range of methodological issues and techniques related to online samples, such as multilevel regression and postratification. Since joining Kent, Raluca has become an integral part of the Conflict Analysis Research Centre. With a keen interest in experimental methods, she is now applying conjoint analysis in conflict studies, focusing on citizen preferences for peace settlements and the potential for public engagement in peacebuilding initiatives.



## Prof Emily (Jintao) Ma

Emily is a Professor at the School of Hospitality & Tourism Management, the University of Surrey, UK. Her research area includes organizational behaviour, customer experience management and women in leadership. Her most recent research looks at how robots can be applied in hospitality and tourism contexts to enhance employee well-being and customer experience.



# Travel and Accommodation Information

## Arrival

Hosted at the University of Sussex, which is accessible by car or train.

### By Car

Car Park 7 - Jubilee. Please see the map of the University, this car park can be found in square A5. It is a 5-minute walk from the car park to Bramber House.

### By Train

Arrive at Falmer Station. Please see the map of the University the station can be found in square B1. Be sure to look at station signage closely as directions for the University of Brighton are also present. It is a 10-minute walk from the station to Bramber House.

### Bramber House

All sessions will be held on the third floor of Bramber house, this is accessible by lift. Please see the map of the University Bramber House can be found in square C6.

There will be a room for luggage storage at the conference space on both days.

## Accommodation

Accommodation has been organised in Bodiam, one of the East Slope Residences. You will be given your room key on Day 1 registration. Please see the map of the University accommodation can be found in square D5. Step free access can be directed as needed.

[A video tour of the accommodation is available here](#)

## Meals

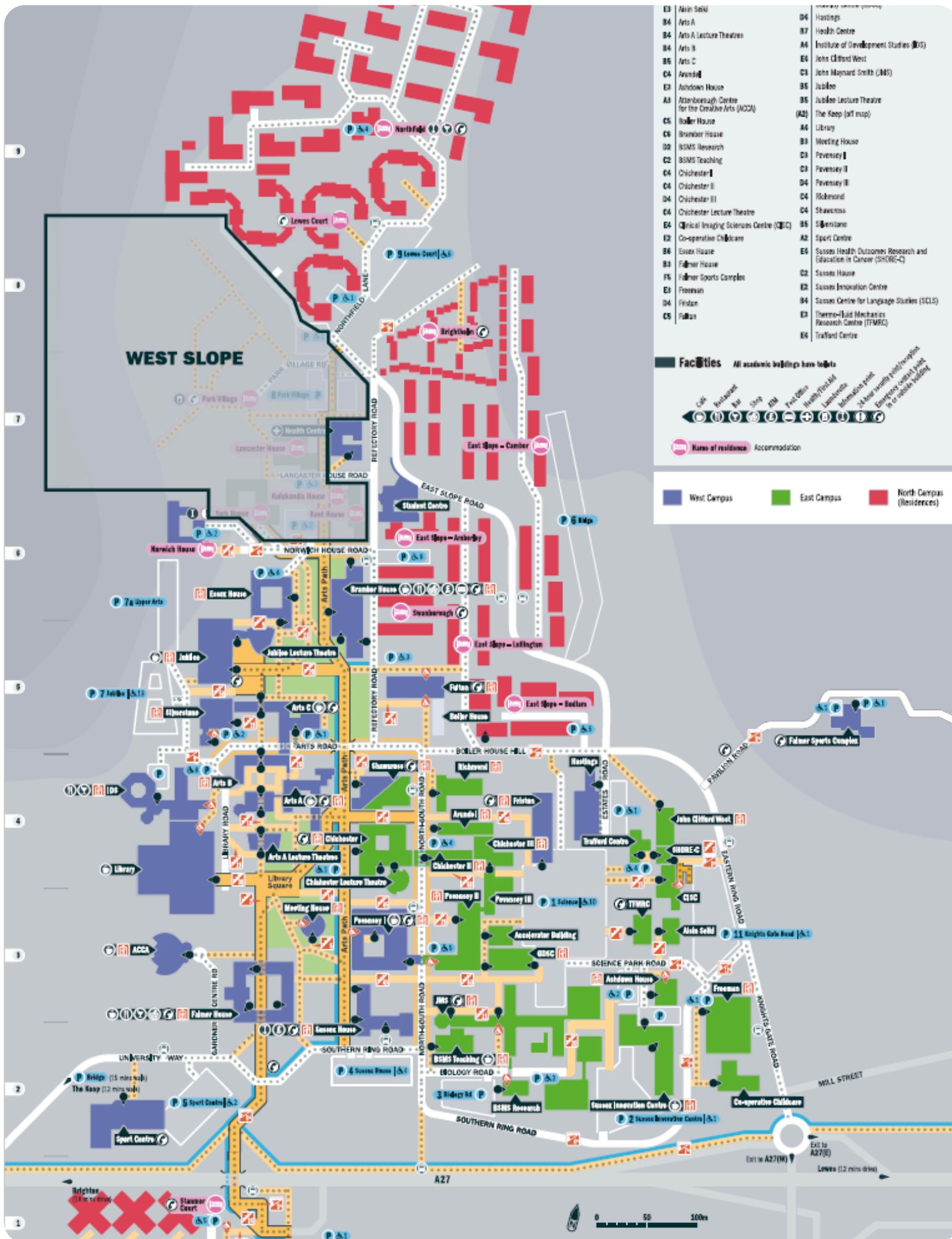
Dinner on Tuesday is being hosted in the Falmer Bar, and you will be given a meal voucher during Day 1 Registration.

Breakfast on Wednesday will be available at Eat Central on the ground floor of the Bramber Building. Your room key card will work as a meal voucher.

Lunch, tea and coffee refreshments will be available both days at the conference space.



A digital map is available here



# Elevator Pitch Information Sheet

This session is all about explaining your research concisely and engagingly. You'll each have **1 minute** and **1 slide** to 'pitch' your PhD project, followed by a short Q&A.

Think poster-style, but adapted to slide format, so keep text clear, fonts large (over 20) and avoid complicated jargon. This is your chance to explain what you're working on, why it matters, and where it could go. Aim to be clear, concise, and engaging.

Pay close attention to your peers: during the Student Elevator Pitch Challenge, you'll identify colleagues whose research aligns with yours for potential interdisciplinary collaboration.

## Important Information:

Your slides need to be completed and submitted onto the [Microsoft Team space](#) no later than **June 16<sup>th</sup>** in the folder titled 'Summer School 2025' ([linked](#)).

On the day of the conference all slides will be made available on a provided device, so you will not need to bring your laptops.

Please see the order of presenters (table on the right) for each session to know when you are expected to present.

If you have any issues or questions please email [sedarc@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:sedarc@rhul.ac.uk)

Tuesday 15th	Wednesday 16th
Clare Davis	Carmen Lenatti
Ben Kelly	Pierce Veitch
Irem Sahiner	Adale Bennett
Swane Parchment	Chloe Irwin
Mickey Sibsey	Megan Evans
Emilia Robinson	Farai Syposz
Sumit Kumar	Henry Snowball
Maryam Wassati	Adam Madhani
Akilles Rechartt	Niall Brenock
Matthew Broomfield	Jack Seagrove
Amelia Leyland-Craggs	Jazmin Kane
Shane Thiara	Sophie O'Connor
Dawn Brenchley	Joely Thomas