

# Spring Update 2020

## Message from the UKI PRME Regional Chapter !

“ Universities and business schools around the world have responded swiftly to the Covid-19 pandemic with a range of extraordinary measures to protect staff and students alike. As we educators adjust to the ‘new normal’, we may wish to remember the message sent to the world by UN Secretary-General Antonio-Gutierrez in March 2020. In declaring war on the virus, his message was clear: *As a human family, we are in this together and we will get through it together. The spread of the virus will peak, and our economies will recover.* In these uncertain times, the PRME UK & Ireland Steering Committee is continuing to work diligently to support our members to the best of our abilities and capacities. The academic community has shown great strength and leadership during this uncertain time and focusing on sustainability and responsible management education is more relevant and necessary today than ever before”

[Dr Alec Wersun](#), UKI Chapter Chair

## Prime Time BLOG

Before providing an update on Chapter activities this year, and recent news from PRME Global, I would like to bring to your attention Giselle Weybrecht’s wonderful [PrimeTime Blog](#). This regular blog brings together good practices on how to mainstream sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into business education globally, and is currently featuring examples of how PRME signatories around the world are responding to the [virus](#). Signing up to the Blog is free, provides a constant source of inspiration from our worldwide community, and we would encourage you to submit stories from *your* School, not only about the current crisis, but about implementation of the Principles as a whole.

## Changes to PRME UK & Ireland Annual Conference 2020

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the PRME UK & Ireland Chapter and the University of Lincoln have made the difficult decision to **postpone** the 2020 UKI Chapter Annual Conference until **July 2021**, and instead hold a **one day Chapter gathering online on Wednesday July 8th** (details to follow). This decision was not taken lightly but will come as no surprise to you, given the escalating seriousness of the situation in the UK, government guidance on social distancing and travel restrictions, and our obligation to protect the welfare of our academic community. If you have questions linked to the conference that are not addressed here, please get in touch by emailing Chapter Chair, Alec Wersun, on [PRME\\_UKI@gcu.ac.uk](mailto:PRME_UKI@gcu.ac.uk)

## Call for Expressions of Interest to host UKI PRME Regional Chapter Annual Conference in 2022

In light of us moving the full annual conference in Lincoln from July 2020 to July 2021 (July 5-7<sup>th</sup>) we are cancelling the call for Expressions of Interest (EoI) to hold the 2021 conference, and will issue a call for EoIs to hold the 2022 conference in due course. Please keep your eyes on the Chapter [website](#).

### UKI Chapter 2020 Responsible Business and Management Writing Competition

The deadline for the 4<sup>th</sup> UK & Ireland PRME Regional Chapter responsible business and management writing competition passed on February 28<sup>th</sup> 2020. We are delighted to advise of a great take-up this year, receiving 82 applications in total from 19 Institutions, across undergraduate (52), postgraduate (17) and alternative media (13) categories. Judging is currently taking place and winners will be announced on the website, and via email, in early May, as long as our team of judges stay healthy and capacity permits.

### UKI Chapter Seed Funding to Develop Innovative Pedagogic Approaches and Teaching Practices

In early 2020 the UK and Ireland Chapter of PRME launched a competition to support the development of innovative pedagogic approaches and teaching practices to support the implementation and integration of the SDGs in to the curriculum. Three awards are available up to the value of £750. **The deadline for this competition was extended to April 14<sup>th</sup> 2020**, with winners being informed in the middle of May. Full details and [application form](#) are available on the Chapter website.

### UKI Chapter Research Paper Development Workshop Series 2021-2025

Do you have work in progress that would benefit from expert feedback from senior scholars? Are you looking to publish business and society research in top journals? PRME UK and Ireland, in conjunction with partner institutions (City University London, University of Bath, University College Dublin, University of Glasgow, University of Nottingham) is holding a series of five paper development workshops to help early and mid-career scholars develop their business and society work for publication. **The first workshop is to be hosted by the University of Bath - School of Management in Spring 2021** with a date to be advised. Full details are available on the Chapter [website](#).

### 7<sup>th</sup> Responsible Management Education Research Conference (RMER) – Switzerland 19-21<sup>st</sup> October

This 7<sup>th</sup> RMER Conference is currently scheduled to be held on 19-21 October 2020 in Chur, Switzerland. The central theme of the conference is related to *digitization and artificial intelligence, and their link with the SDGs and implications for responsible management education*. If you plan to participate, please use the [conference website](#) to keep up to date with any changes, for as you know, many academic conferences this year have been cancelled, postponed, or switched to an online format.

### PRME Global Forum June 17-18<sup>th</sup> 2020

To mitigate the risk and spread of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Organising Committee decided to take the following precautionary measures: Postponing the *2020 PRME Global Forum for Responsible Management Education - 8<sup>th</sup> PRME Assembly* to a future date (more information will be communicated as soon as possible). Hosting an online *2020 PRME Global Forum Webinar: Select Sessions from the Global Forum for Responsible Management Education* on 17/18<sup>th</sup> June. Details to follow. If you have completed registration and payment for the Global Forum previously planned for 17-18 June 2020, your registration will be secured and credited towards the Global Forum in Summer 2021. If you do not wish to secure your registration for the Global Forum in Summer 2021, please email [globalforum@unprme.org](mailto:globalforum@unprme.org) no later than 30 November 2020

## **UN Global Compact (UNGC) 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Leader's Summit June 15-16<sup>th</sup> 2020**

Similarly, the UNGC has decided to reimagine this year's 20th Anniversary Leaders Summit as a *virtual gathering* on June 15-16, 2020. We are living in uncertain times, but one thing remains true. There has never been a more important time for the global business community to come together in solidarity. This year's online experience will be bigger, bolder and more inclusive so that all of UNGC's stakeholders will be able to attend free of charge. The Global Compact hopes that you will join thousands of corporate sustainability leaders, CEOs, Heads of State, Government officials, and UN Principals in virtual plenary sessions, panel discussions, round tables, exhibitions and interactive networking sessions. This high-level programme will "chase the sun" to allow attendees and Global Compact Local Networks to participate in their own time zones and languages. Academic Institutions can join the UNGC as a non-business participant (free of charge) and you are encouraged to do so. Please follow this [link](#) to understand non-business participant membership.

## **New Head of PRME Global**

In early April, Lise Kingo, CEO and Executive Director of the UN Global Compact announced the appointment of Ms. Mette Morsing as Programme Officer and Head of the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) initiative with the UN Global Compact, effective 1 May 2020. Ms. Morsing will oversee the strategic development and implementation of the PRME initiative and its entire work programme, reporting directly to the CEO & Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact. It was reported that Ms. Morsing brings extensive research and leadership knowledge on responsible management education and sustainable development from the classroom to the boardroom of management schools. Ms. Morsing is currently Mistra Chair of Sustainable Markets and Executive Director of Misum at Mistra Center for Sustainable Markets at Stockholm School of Economics, Sweden. She is also Professor of Corporate Social Responsibility at the Copenhagen Business School, Denmark. Ms. Morsing founded one of today's largest management scholar research centres in Europe and co-founded the Academy of Business in Society, Brussels. Ms. Morsing has been engaged in PRME since its establishment in 2007, including as PRME Nordic Chapter Chair.

I am sure you will join me in extending a very warm welcome to Ms. Morsing. Under her leadership and with your support, we look forward to an end of a period of uncertainty, and the beginning of an exciting new chapter for PRME to advance the responsible management education movement worldwide.

## **PRME Interim Management Council (IMC)**

Pending Mette Morsing taking up her post on May 1<sup>st</sup>, [Professor Danica Purg](#) is serving as Acting Chair of the PRME Steering Committee, and overseeing the work of an Interim Management Council (IMC). The IMC is comprised of a small but dedicated group of individuals with strong leadership and PRME experience. Members of the IMC are Norman Aruda, David Cooperrider, Lisa Frohlich, Belinda Gibbons, Nikolay Ivanov, Nicola Kleyn, Mette Morsing, Sergey Myassodov, and Andrew Main Wilson. The task of the IMC is twofold: to decide on the overall strategic framework for PRME in the future, and to appoint the new PRME Steering Committee that will be presented to the PRME Community at the online PRME Global Forum on June 17<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> 2020

Finally, in case it has slipped your attention, please note that effective January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, the Secretariat for the UK & Ireland PRME Regional Chapter was moved to Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU). As the current Chapter Chair works at GCU we are ensured continuity of service. These arrangements will stay in place for a minimum of one year and a maximum of three. Bryan Hall of GCU now serves as UKI PRME Administrator, working one day per week on behalf of the Chapter. Bryan Hall's email address is [prme\\_uki@gcu.ac.uk](mailto:prme_uki@gcu.ac.uk) and his direct telephone number is **0141 3318591** – please contact Bryan if you have any Chapter-related questions, or would like some form of support. We would also kindly ask that you update your records accordingly (including those for payment of the annual Chapter membership fee), and inform all members of your PRME Team of these changes and new contact details. Should details of those leading PRME activities in your Institution change at all, please let Bryan know so that he can keep our mailing list(s) up to date.

Dear Colleagues: we live in extraordinary times! The academic community has shown great strength and leadership during this uncertain time and responsible management education is more relevant and necessary today than ever before. There is little doubt that questions and issues raised during the Covid-19 outbreak will shape our agendas for the immediate future. What are the implications of this crisis for business and management educators? What are we learning during this crisis? Will things be different once we have weathered the storm? Or will it be back to 'business as usual'?

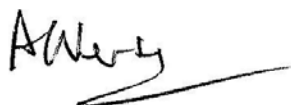
Please keep safe, and keep well!

On behalf of the UKI Chapter Steering Committee

Alec Wersun,

Glasgow School *for* Business and Society

Glasgow Caledonian University (Chair)



#### Steering Committee Members

Nishat Azmat, Birmingham Business School (Treasurer)

Fatima Annan-Diab, Kingston Business School

Chris Doran, Salford Business School

Christine Gilligan, Sheffield Hallam University

Alex Hope, Northumbria University (Vice-Chair)

Steve Kenzie, UN Global Compact UK Network (ex-officio)

Sheila Killian, University of Limerick

Jonathan Louw, Oxford Brookes University (Secretary)

Carole Parkes, Winchester University

Anica Zeyen, Royal Holloway School of Management