

Advice to my Younger Self

A Careers Event for Professional Economists

30th April 2024, 4-6pm

Cardiff Business School Postgraduate Teaching Centre, Executive Education Suite
(or online via zoom)

Is it time to reflect on what might be next in your career or what you might want to do differently in the future? At this event we will hear from inspirational senior economists working in government, industry and academia who will share their career journeys, offer advice to their younger self, and answer your career-related questions.

This event is sponsored by a Cardiff Business School (CARBS) Public Value Engagement Fellowship and is organised by Cardiff Business School in Partnership with the Royal Economic Society, UK Women's in Economics Network (UK WEN) [Women in Economics Network \(WEN\) - Royal Economic Society \(res.org.uk\)](https://www.res.org.uk)

The primary objective of the event is to inspire, support, and encourage women in economics to develop and achieve in their career. Our distinguished panel, who come from a diverse array of professional backgrounds in economics, will share their experience and advice. In doing so, this event aspires to foster a sense of community among economists and actively contribute to raising the profile and influence of women thereby reducing the persistent gender gaps in seniority within the economics profession.

Registration: [Careers Event for Professional Economists Tickets, Tue, Apr 30, 2024 at 4:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Provisional Schedule

4.00-4.10pm	Welcome and introductions	Melanie Jones (CARBS)
4.10-4.40pm	'My career'	Sarah Smith (Bristol University) Laura Haddock (Office for National Statistics) Laura Rovegno (Compass Lexecon)
4.40-5.10pm	<i>Refreshments and networking</i>	
5.10-5.55pm	'Advice to my former self' panel discussion and questions	Sarah Smith (Bristol University) Laura Haddock (Office for National Statistics) Laura Rovegno (Compass Lexecon)
5.55-6.00pm	Summary and final remarks	Melanie Jones (CARBS)

Speaker Biographies



Melanie Jones (Cardiff Business School)

Melanie is a Professor of Economics at Cardiff Business School. Her research in empirical labour economics involves the quantitative analysis of large-scale secondary data. She has worked on a variety of policy relevant issues in collaboration with a range of external organisations including the Low Pay Commission and the Office of Manpower Economics the but has a particular interest in gender equality and the interaction between health and the labour market. She is currently an elected member of the Council of the Royal Economic Society, Associate Editor at the British Journal of Industrial Relations, ONS Fellow and member of ESRC Grant Assessment Panel C and the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration.

[Professor Melanie Jones - People - Cardiff University](#)



Sarah Smith OBE (Bristol University)

Sarah is a Professor of Economics at the University of Bristol. Her research interests cover public and labour economics. She is founder and co-chair of Discover Economics, a campaign to increase diversity among economics students. She has been chair of the Royal Economic Society's (RES) Women's Committee (2017-20), an elected member of the RES council (2012-2017) and the European Economics Association council (2014-2018), and Deputy Chair of the REF2021 Economics and Econometrics sub-panel. Sarah was awarded an OBE in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours for services to economics and education.

[Professor Sarah Smith - Our People \(bristol.ac.uk\)](#)



Laura Haddock (Office for National Statistics)

Laura is an Assistant Deputy Director at the Office for National Statistics. She leads on the Office's Annual Business Surveys, capturing a detailed picture of economic activity across the UK. Recently her focus has been on Research and Development surveys and statistics, which have undergone transformation. Prior to working at the ONS Laura has worked in a number of government departments, looking at the economic impacts of policy across a variety of topics such as policing, rail, and courts and tribunals, as well as examining corporate delivery, performance and risks.



Laura Rovegno (Compass Lexecon)

Laura is a Vice President at Compass Lexecon, based in London. She has over 10 years of experience as a competition economist, specialising in the application of econometric and other empirical techniques to antitrust matters. Laura has provided advice in the context of merger control, Article 101 and 102, and follow-on damages cases in various jurisdictions – particularly the EU and the UK – and in a wide range of industries, including energy, water, financial services, media, electronics, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, online platforms, transport, manufacturing, groceries and other consumer goods.

Before joining Compass Lexecon, Laura was Head of Econometrics at the UK's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA, previously the Office of Fair Trading). In this role, she led a team of economists responsible for delivering complex quantitative analysis across the full range of CMA cases, including mergers, market investigations, antitrust and enforcement cases, and regulatory appeals. Laura's role involved managing all aspects of econometric analysis, including leading and supervising econometric work; assessing evidence submitted by external parties; engaging with parties and their economic experts, and advising decision makers. Laura was also responsible for overseeing the CMA's general approach to econometric and quantitative evidence across cases.

[Laura Rovegno - Compass Lexecon](#)