

Welcome to EIBA 2019 Leeds

Dear EIBA members, colleagues, and friends,

It is a great privilege for us to welcome IB scholars, practitioners, and PhD students to the 45th EIBA Annual Conference in Leeds. This year's theme addresses the issues facing international business and international management in an era of socio-political turbulence – a topic particularly germane to individuals living, not just in the UK, but many other countries facing unpredicted and unprecedented political change.

The EIBA 2019 Leeds Conference is aimed at fostering debate and discussion relating to this topic and we have pulled together a series of tracks that, while loyal to the core topics in international business and management, attempt to put more emphasis on the historic, socio-political and institutional dimensions. In particular, we have a number of panels that will specifically be addressing these dimensions while also giving voice to viewpoints and research dealing with the geo-political and geo-social aspects of globalization, de-globalization and political and environmental pressures. The opening plenary session in the University Great Hall is centered on the theme of the conference, “**International Business in a Confused World Order**”, while the EIBA Fellows Plenary on Sunday – **From Regional Convergence to Divergence** – will be examining the impact of economic geography on the structure of international business activities. This panel will also feature Professor Michael Storper, who is this year's EIBA Fellows Honorary Scholar. The theme of the conference will be further emphasized in a panel launching the **15th volume of the Progress in International Business Research (PIBR) series – Progress in IB Research in an Increasingly VUCA World** – which is published in honour of Peter J. Buckley.

In addition, the conference program includes up to 47 sessions of featuring competitive and 27 interactive papers sessions. There are 12 regular panel sessions covering a varied range of topics, along with a special EIBA history panel (Sunday at 08:30) and a panel devoted to young scholars (Saturday at 16:30). There are also three Meet-the-editor sessions featuring representation from 10 international business-related journals). We would also encourage everyone to attend the **EIBA General Assembly**, which will be held on Saturday at 15:45.

Unlike in prior years, we will be holding two plenary poster sessions that will overlap with lunch on Saturday and Sunday. These will be held in the same location as lunch allowing you to move easily between food and intellectual discourse. We believe this will give you the opportunity to meet and discuss early stage research with the poster presenters over a 2-hour period and also allow for more ease of access to the posters given there will be nearly 120 poster presentations. In addition, each poster has been assigned a QR code, which will allow you to download the poster to peruse on your computer or mobile device.

In addition to the traditional conference program, we have several pre-conference and post conference activities that provide opportunities for junior scholars and PhD students, to get feedback on their research ideas and to get acquainted with academic publishing, research methods and teaching excellence.

The *pre-conference activities* feature the 33rd John H. Dunning Doctoral Tutorial, and the 8th Danny Van den Bulcke Doctoral Symposium, as well as the 5th Early Career Network Workshop. In addition, there will be Paper Development Workshops (PDWs) organized by the *International Business Review*, the *Journal of International Business Studies*, the *Journal of International Business Policy*, and the *Journal of World Business/Journal of Management Studies*. These will feature more than 40 senior academics giving their time freely to assist other researchers in the development of their ideas and papers.

The *post-conference events* include two methodology workshops – one in structural equations modeling and one in qualitative methods – a pedagogy workshop on teaching international business and international management – and a workshop on taking stock of research in culture.

As well as all of the regular conference type activities we hope to get you more engaged socially. There will be a **New Member Meet & Greet** at 17:00 on Friday at Parkinson Court. This will be a “speed dating” style event for new members to meet one another as well as many existing members, including EIBA Fellows and members of the EIBA Board. For PhD students, we will be having a **PhD Students On the Town** evening on Saturday, organized by local Leeds University students who seem to know every bar and restaurant in town! Finally, the Gala will be held in the Royal Armouries at the Leeds Docks. The Royal Armouries is the UK's oldest museum, originally housed in the Tower of London from the 15th century. It is also one of the oldest and largest collections of arms and armour in the world.

We hope that in addition to the intensive conference program, you will also have an opportunity to enjoy Leeds and the Yorkshire region. We have attempted to facilitate this for you with some pre-conference tours but there are many things to see in the region if you have the time either now or in the future.

As you are no doubt aware, a conference of this size cannot be organized without a dedicated and committed team giving a huge amount of their time and effort freely to the collective endeavour you will be experiencing. We had 28 track chairs handling the more than 500 submissions to the conference, assisted by 440+ reviewers. The local conference team included not just local University of Leeds academics – Murod Aliyev, Cristos Antoniou, Giles Blackburne, Ziko Konwar, Steven Liu, Ning Lu, Cristian Luise, Emmanuella Plakoyiannaki, Hinrich Voss, Elizabeth Wang and Annie Wei – but our local school team – Victoria Weeks, Asma Mitchla and Juwayriyah Khan – along with the professionals at the University, MeetInLeeds, who handled all the catering and nitty gritty of the facilities. They, not us, made it all happen; and we thank them deeply and sincerely for making us look competent!

Along with our colleagues and the entire EIBA Leeds 2019 team, we hope you will find the conference intellectually engaging as well as fun and productive and enjoy what the city of Leeds has to offer. We also hope that you take the time to engage with all that EIBA and its membership have to offer, both now and in the future.



Timothy M Devinney
EIBA President & Conference Chair



Elizabeth L Rose
EIBA Conference Co-Chair