

23rd Rural Entrepreneurship Conference Northumbria University

In Association with the EPHEMERAL Marie Curie Network & The Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship and the rural economy: maximising opportunities and mitigating risks

Thursday 21st May, 2026

Room CCE 401 - Newcastle Business School, Northumbria University Newcastle

Agenda:

- 1:30-2:45 *Delegates are welcome to join the Rural Entrepreneurship Conference track session on rural growth*
- 2:45-3:15 *Registration, tea & Coffee*
- 3:15-3:30 Welcome and introduction**
(Gary Bosworth, Northumbria University; Simon Laing, Rural Design Centre)
- 3:30-3:45 **Rethinking Rural Growth: Evidence from UK regions**
(Sophie Bennett-Gillison & Lyndon Murphy, Aberystwyth University)
- 3:45-4:45 **Implications for Rural Entrepreneurship Policy (Panel Debate)**
Derek Egan (Economic and Social Research Analyst, DEFRA)
Sue Parkinson (NEEAL)
Glen Sanderson (NECA – Cabinet Member for Environment, Coast and Rural)
Andy Dean (Community Action Northumberland)
- 4.45-5:00 **Concluding Thoughts and Comments**
(Ignazio Cabras, Northumbria University)
- 5.00-6:00 Drinks, canapes and networking