

ECR Perspective of IDRIC-2023

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ECRA Workshop

JT - Before IDRIC's Annual Conference 2023, IDRIC's Early Career Research Academy (ECRA) hosted a policy debrief and industry engagement workshop. The 'Policy Debrief', led by IDRIC's Policy Team (Anna Pultar and John Ferrier) allowed researchers, particularly those that do not explicitly follow UK policy changes, a chance to 'zoom out' from our research and gain valuable insight into the policy landscape of UK decarbonisation.

AA - The following 'Engaging with Industry' session, led by Skillfluence, explored innovative strategies for effective industry collaboration. The session provided a platform for in-depth discussions on bridging the gap between research and industry practice. Through interactive sessions and case studies, we learnt how to explore the challenges and opportunities in translating research outcomes into practical solutions for decarbonisation. We also gained a deeper understanding of industry needs and expectations, which would enable the alignment of our research efforts with real-world requirements.

JT – The Skillfluence session was fabulous and many of ECRA told me that they got a sense on simplifying their research communication. Perhaps the only negative was for a slight senior ECR there could have been more detail, but we have heard from many ECRs that they got a real sense of how to simplify their research communication.

AA – Participating in these workshops has equipped me with valuable tools and insights to effectively engage with industry stakeholders, drive technological innovations, and contribute to the transition towards a low-carbon economy. This engagement has enriched my understanding of the real-world implications of our work and enhanced our ability to drive impactful change. I remain committed to leveraging research expertise, interdisciplinary collaboration, and industry partnerships to advance decarbonisation efforts and shape sustainable industrial practices.

HS - Attending the ECRA workshop provided time to get to know one another and see how different disciplines address decarbonisation challenges, learn more about different research synergies and differences, and to compare notes on life as an ECR.

IDRIC Conference 2023

JT- The IDRIC conference was a great event having 50% of industrial participants. I had quite a lot of chance to speak to the industrial participants and they gave very different opinions compared to academia. The networking dinner was a great time for everyone to connect.

HS - The conference was a fast-paced couple of days with a lot of information sharing and opportunities to meet people from both academia and industry. It was interesting to see the presentations and panel discussions – of course the content was very useful, and I think important to understand what other experts are doing in order to gather a broad understanding of how challenges are being addressed. It also shone a light of the geo-spatial differences between problems and solutions. As an ECR it was a good opportunity to observe how people at the top of their fields present themselves and communicate at this level.

JT - The presentations showcased the diversity of research in IDRIC to mitigate the net zero challenges from different aspects (from technology to humanity and economy), meanwhile, giving opportunity to everyone to contribute and to shape the net zero community in UK.

What's next?

HS - As part of the South Wales cluster I came away feeling seen and heard by my colleagues and this has strengthened my relationships with the South Wales cluster, and the social science teams. It has also enabled me to position my research within a UK perspective and I am working towards my own self-development with a better understanding of where/ how my research skills and interest fit.

AA - As part of the IDRIC community, I am excited to continue our journey towards industrial decarbonisation. Together, we can make a tangible difference in addressing the challenges of industrial decarbonisation and driving the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon