



Women's Engineering Society

Virtual Annual Conference 2021

'Serving Society'

Tuesday 20 April and Wednesday 21 April 2021

Online Event Programme

Please note: This programme may be subject to change. All times will be British Summer Time (which is Greenwich Mean Time/Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) + 1 hour).

This is an online event and will be hosted on Microsoft Teams.

Our overarching conference theme this year is **'Serving Society'**. This extraordinary year has highlighted how engineers have not just created ground-breaking solutions and innovations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, but how they also deliver and maintain critical services and infrastructure in all aspects of society, every day of our lives.

With leading industry speakers, the conference will not only reflect and explore how engineers serve society but also look to the digital future. Alongside this will be sessions on professional development, career planning, wellbeing and profiles of different engineering disciplines, along with informal opportunities to network and discuss topics of interest online outside of the main conference.

DAY 1: Tuesday 20 April

The main conference session will run, with breaks, from **10.00 to 16.30 BST**.

09.15 – 10.00: Informal networking and online chat hosted by WES Board Members

10.00 – 10.15: Main conference start and Welcome from Conference Host, Dawn Childs, President, Women's Engineering Society (WES)

10.15 – 11.00: Conference Keynote Address: 'Engineering in the Service of Society'

- Professor Catherine Noakes OBE, Professor of Environmental Engineering for Buildings, University of Leeds

11.00 – 11.15: Screen break

11.15 – 11.45: Serving Society: Communications, Data & Logistics

- Claire Jones, EMEA Talent Acquisition Manager, and Vera Blanke, Senior Manager, Datacenter Operations Support, Equinix
- Maisie Barnard, Engineering Apprentice, and Paige Rusdale, Apprentice Maintenance Engineer, DP World

11.50 – 12.20: Serving Society: Transport

- Malcolm Keys, Director, BAI Communications UK
- Kamini Edgley, Director of Engineering & Asset Management, Network Rail

12.25 – 12.55: Serving Society: Power and Utilities

- Aleksandra Zefirova, Programme Manager, National Grid
- Chris Gray, Vice President – Operations, Quality and Health, Safety & Environment, Crane Building Services & Utilities

13.00 – 14.00 Break/networking, with Emma Nicholson, Board Member & Trustee, WES

14.00 – 14.45: Take a Tour with an Amazon Engineer

- Danielle Malone, Energy Manager, Amazon

14.45 – 15.30: Engineering Profile: Bioengineering

- Dr Helen Meese, Founder & CEO, The Care Machine Ltd
- Dr Karin Hing, Reader in Biomedical Materials, Queen Mary University of London

15.30 – 15.45: Screen break

15.45 – 16.30: 'Behind the Headlines' discussion

- Emma Crichton, Head of Engineering, Engineers Without Borders UK

- Nicole Jackson, Design & Programme Assurance Specialist Eastern Network GD1 and Eastern Network Project Controller and Reporting Specialist GD2, Cadent
- Thomas Baker, Researcher, Loughborough University, and Analyst, WRAP

DAY 2: Wednesday 21 April

The main conference session will run, with breaks, from **11.00 to 16.30 BST**.

10.00 – 11.00: *Informal networking and online chat hosted by Sally Sudworth, Climate Emergency Group Lead, WES*

11.00 – 11.15: Introduction to Day 2 with Conference Host, Susan Robson, Board Member & Trustee, WES

11.15 – 12.00: Conference Keynote Address

- Dr Hayaatun Sillem CBE, Chief Executive Officer, Royal Academy of Engineering

12.05 – 12.35: Supporting Wellbeing in a Digitally Demanding World

- Elena Liqueste, Head of Professional Development & Undergraduate Experience, The Dyson Institute of Engineering and Technology

12.40 – 13.10: 'Digital Everything'

- Mivy James, Digital Transformation Director and Head of Consulting, BAE Systems Applied Intelligence

13.10 – 13.45: Lunch break

13.45 – 14.15: Big Data in an Automotive World

- Alexandra Walker, Powertrain Quality Manager, Ford Motor Company, with colleagues Katja Berger and Michael Higgins

14.15 – 15.15: Professional Development Sessions

- (14.15 – 14.45): Vicky Paley, Engineer, and Founder, The Saturday Project
- (14.45 – 15.15): *Succeeding in Challenging Markets – Job Search Strategy and Interview Techniques*: Dr Manisha Patel, Director & Coach, Kuzuko Group

15.15 – 15.30: Screen break

15.30 – 16.15: Mental Health and the Workplace

- Simon Blake OBE, Chief Executive, Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) England
- Top tips on maintaining mental health and wellbeing shared by Lizzie Barr, Chair, WES Apprentice Board, and Natalie Tang, Vice-Chair for WES University Groups Board

16.15 – 16.30: Conference wrap up and the WES Year ahead

The Women's Engineering Society is grateful for the support of our Sponsors for the Virtual Annual Conference 2021:



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