

# CONNECTIONS UK

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

# 2025

9-11 SEPTEMBER



[www.professionalwargaming.co.uk](http://www.professionalwargaming.co.uk)



## ABOUT

The aim of Connections UK CIC is 'To advance and preserve the art, science and application of wargaming'.

The main effort is our annual conference, Connections UK, which brings together a mix of practitioners, designers, analysts, academics, educators, and government personnel - in fact anyone with an interest in professional wargaming or serious games.

The Conference helps bring together:

- Experienced designers and practitioners who can share their knowledge, activities, experience within the community of practice.
- Those wishing to explore and develop their knowledge and skills in serious gaming.

The Connections mission is to advance and preserve the art, science and application of wargaming. The conference will include talks, courses and workshops in line with that and, of course, plenty of gameplay! All of this in a safe-to-fail (and fun!) environment and with a pathway through the conference for newcomers.

Connections UK CIC is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company registered in the UK (number12359256). It is run by four volunteers and powered by the enthusiasm and support of both the professional wargaming and recreational wargaming communities in the UK.

[www.professionalwargaming.co.uk](http://www.professionalwargaming.co.uk)

# CONNECTIONS UK

DAY ONE: TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER



Serial	Time	Event or Activity	Location	Notes
1A	08.30 - 09.45	Registration and welcome drinks	Newton Room	Receive programme, badges, new members guide etc
1B	09.45 - 10.00	Move to Howell Theatre		
1C	10.00 - 10.30	Welcome and opening address	Howell Theatre	Tom Mouat, Graham Longley-Brown, Alex Vince.  Connections UK welcome and conference pathways
1D	10.30 - 11.00	<b>Barriers into Wargaming</b>  The Women in Wargaming team explore the invisible barriers marginalised groups face in the professional and recreational context of wargaming, and suggests actions the community can take to support them.	Howell Theatre	Jessica Viccars, Philippa 'Pip' Cawdell

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DAY ONE: TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER



Serial	Time	Event or Activity	Location	Notes
1E	11.00 - 11.30	Break	Howell Theatre	
1F	11.30 - 13.00	<p><b>Introduction to Wargaming Course</b></p> <p>Presentations and hands-on game play for new members</p> <p>Do this OR 'Green &amp; Pleasant Land'</p>	Lecture Centre 1 <sup>st</sup> floor	Tom Mouat, Perry Jago, Alex Vince, Guy Selway, Georgie Eckersley
1G	11.00 - 13.00	<p><b>'Green &amp; Pleasant Land'</b></p> <p>A megagame of National Security. Can the UK Government manage multiple simultaneous crises in a time of tension?</p> <p>Do this OR the introduction to Wargaming</p>	Hamilton Centre	Jim Wallman, John Mizon & Fraser Patrick
1H	13.00 - 14.00	Lunch (hot-fork buffet at tables)	Newton Room	Main dining room

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DAY ONE: TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER



Serial	Time	Event or Activity	Location	Notes
1I	14.00 - 15.30	Introduction to wargaming (continued)  Do this OR 'Green & Pleasant Land'	Lecture Centre 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Tom, Perry, Jago, Alex Vince, Guy elway, Georgie Ekersley
1J	14.00 - 15.30	'Green & Pleasant Land' (continued)  Do this OR the Introduction into to Wargaming	Hamilton Centre	Jim Wallman, John Mizon & Fraser Patrick
1K	15.30 - 15.45	Break	Lecture Centre and Hamilton Centre	
1L	15.45 - 16.00	Move to Hamilton Centre		
1M	16.00 - 16.45	<b>David Banks</b>  Admitting what we know and knowing what that means: exploring the types of knowledge that wargames (seem) to produce	Howell Theatre	David Banks

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Serial	Time	Event or Activity	Location	Notes
1N	16.45 - 17.00	Conference pathways Look ahead to Day 2. Session numbers and locations	Howell Theatre	Alex Vince Graham Longley- Brown
1O	17.00 - 18.00	Networking events	Newton Room	WWN + WiW plus others
1P	18.00 - 22.00	Social gaming	Newton Room	Bar open Food outlets open Games use tables from lunch

DAY TWO: WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

Serial	Time	Event or Activity	Location	Notes
2A	08.00 - 08.30	Registration and welcome drinks	Howell Theatre	Newcomers only
2B	08.30 - 08.45	Welcome  Look ahead to Day 3 session numbers and locations	Howell Theatre	Tom Mouat, Graham-Longley- Brown, Alex Vince, Jim Wallman

# CONNECTIONS UK

DAY TWO: WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER



Serial	Time	Event or Activity	Location	Notes
2C	08.45 - 09.00	Move to various locations		
2D	09.00 - 10.30	<p><b>Postgraduate research into wargaming.</b></p> <p>This session showcases cutting-edge postgraduate research into wargaming and serious games, highlighting how academic inquiry is strengthening the field's foundations. With momentum growing across different domains, the panel explores opportunities for crossover and innovation, while also championing the next generation of researchers who will shape its future.</p>	Lecture Centre or Howell Theatre, TBC end of Day 1	Vikki McCall (Chair), Tess Butler, Cath Jones, David Burden

# CONNECTIONS UK

DAY TWO: WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER



Serial	Time	Event or Activity	Location	Notes
2E		<p><b>Exemplars of Defence wargaming Delivery</b></p> <p>This session showcases wargaming approaches that we talk about and say we should practise, but rarely do: adopting a campaigning approach; incorporating influence and applying Red Teaming techniques.</p>	Lecture Centre or Howell Theatre, TBC end of Day 1	Graham Longley-Brown (Chair), Mark Kyriss, Wes Odum, Georgina Rice, Olayinka Olakunle
2F		<p><b>Insights from historical wargaming</b></p> <p>This panel examines several case studies of the history of professional wargaming in militaries, looking at the lessons we can learn from both their context and conduct.</p>	Lecture Centre or Howell Theatre, TBC end of Day 1	John Curry (Chair), James Halstead, Pete Sizer, Toby Ewin, Steven Wagner

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DAY TWO: WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER



Serial	Time	Event or Activity	Location	Notes
2G	10.30 - 11.00	Break	Howell Theatre and Lecture Centre	
2H	11.00 - 13.00	<b>Game jam</b>  A hands-on session where you can design a game from scratch, working in a small and facilitated group. To be continued on Day 3.	Lecture Centre or Howell Theatre, TBC end of Day 1	Evan D'Allesandro
2I	11.00 - 13.00	Sharing best practise in Professional Military Education wargaming courses  The panellists will discuss what works and what doesn't work when using wargames for learning purposes.	Lecture Centre or Howell Theatre, TBC end of Day 1	Tom Mouat (Chair), Rob Burks, Georgie Eckersley, Keith Martin-Smith, Iain Farquharson

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DAY TWO: WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER



Serial	Time	Event or Activity	Location	Notes
2J	11.00 - 13.00	Under the hood of analytical wargaming The panelists will discuss the theory, design, and implementation of wargames from a technical perspective, which underpins the design and delivery of analytical wargames.	Lecture Centre or Howell Theatre, TBC end of Day 1	Patrik Bjorkholm (Chair), Mike Tickner, Anders Melander, Nick Bradbeer, Natalia Zwarts, Dominic Rougier & Benjamin House
2K	13.00 - 14.00	Lunch (hot-fork buffet at tables)	Newton Room	
2L	14.00 - 17.00	Games Fair	Lecture Centre - First Floor	
2M	15.00 - 15.30	Break	Lecture Centre	
2N	17.00 - 18.00	Networking events	Newton Room	
2O	18.00 - 22.00	Social Gaming	Newton Room	Bar Open, Food Outlets open, Games use tables from lunch

# CONNECTIONS UK

DAY THREE: THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER



Serial	Time	Event or Activity	Location	Notes
3A	08.00 - 08.30	Registration and welcome drinks	Howell Theatre	Newcomers only
3B	08.30 - 08.45	Welcome  Brunel MA update	Howell Theatre	Tom Mouat, Graham Longley-Brown, Alex Vince  Iain Farquarson
3C	8.45 - 9.00	Move to various locations		
3D	09.00 - 10.00	<b>Innovations in commercial wargames</b>  From entertainment to engagement: the panel will discuss innovations from commercial recreational gaming that might be applied to professional wargaming.	Lecture Centre or Howell Theatre, TBC end of Day 2	James Blair (Chair), Jim Buckley, Ali Ansari, Fred Serval

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DAY THREE: THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER



Serial	Time	Event or Activity	Location	Notes
3E	09.00 - 10.00	<p><b>How our adversaries wargame</b></p> <p>The panellists will discuss how our adversaries use wargaming and how this might provide an intelligence collection opportunity.</p>	Lecture Centre or Howell Theatre, TBC end of Day 2	Alan Edwards (Chair), Neil Verrall, Stephen Downes-Martin
3F	09.00 - 10.00	<p><b>Supporting the Next Generation</b></p> <p>Learn about (and contribute to!) how we support newcomers as a wider community and how we might develop new talent</p>	Lecture Centre or Howell Theatre, TBC end of Day 2	Alex Vince, James Darnton, Lola Oates (self-chairing)
3G	09.00 - 10.00	<p><b>AI in wargaming</b></p> <p>The panellists will discuss recent developments, examples and concerns.</p>	Lecture Centre or Howell Theatre, TBC end of Day 2	Tom Mouat, Ruby Booth
3H	10.00 - 10.15	Move to Howell		

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DAY THREE: THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER



Serial	Time	Event or Activity	Location	Notes
3I	10.15 - 10.00	Peter Perla Commemorative Talk Why the recreational base remains vital to serious wargaming	Howell Theatre	Mark Herman
3J	11.00 -11.30	Break	Howell Theatre	
3K	11.30 - 13.00	<b>Game jam</b> (continued from Day 2)	Lecture Centre or Howell Theatre, TBC end of Day 2	Evan D'Allesandro
3L	11.30 - 13.00	<b>Good reads</b> Leading wargame authors summarise their latest books on the subject, including: 'Wargaming According to Mark' by Mark Herman; 'The Politics of Play' by Aggie Hirst; 'The Craft of Wargaming' by Jeff Appleget; and 'On Wargaming 2nd Edition' by Matt Caffrey.	Lecture Centre or Howell Theatre, TBC end of Day 2	Colin Marson, Mark Herman, Matt Caffrey, Jeff Appleget, Aggie Hirst

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Serial	Time	Event or Activity	Location	Comments
3M	11.30 - 13.00	<b>Insights from Resilience Gaming</b>  The panellists will explore recent insights from games designed to help us better handle crises' and disaster.	Lecture Centre or Howell Theatre, TBC end of Day 2	Iain Farquarson (Chair), Brunel MAs, Mary Hezelgrave or Andrew Crooks, Sally Walker
3N	11.00 - 13.00	<b>New members - the way forward</b>  An opportunity to find out how to stay involved, continue your learning, and join emerging projects after Connections UK finishes.	Lecture Centre or Howell Theatre, TBC end of Day 2	Jim Wallman and Alex Vince

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DAY THREE: THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER



Serial	Time	Event or Activity	Location	Comments
3O	13.00 - 14.00	Lunch (Hot-fork buffet at tables)	Newton Room	Main dining room plus several smaller tables
3P	14.00 - 16.45	<b>Games Fair</b>	Lecture Centre	
3Q	15.00 - 15.30	Break	Lecture Centre	
3R	16.45 - 17.00	Move to Howell		
3S	17.00 - 17.15	Close	Hamilton Centre	Colin Marston



# CONNECTIONS UK GROUND RULES

## WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

- To have a professionally facilitated and managed experience.
- To make your own choices within the conference and its rules.
- To be listened to both in and out of the conference.
- A safe friendly environment free of verbal, and emotional harassment.
- To not be subjected to aggressive, argumentative, racist, sexist, and homophobic behaviour or language.

## WHAT WE EXPECT FROM ATTENDEES AT CONNECTION UK

- To participate as fully as they can.
- To respect other participants.
- To listen to other participants both in and out of sessions.
- To contribute to a safe friendly environment free of verbal and emotional harassment.
- To not be aggressive, argumentative, racist, sexist, and homophobic in behaviour or language.

In order to keep our conference safe and successful, attendees are expected to respect these ground rules. When you attend, you hereby agree to respect the rules above. Participants who are unable to meet the expectations above (especially with regard to behaviour) will be asked to leave.

If anyone needs support whilst at the conference with regard to any aspect of these ground rules then the Connections UK Main Point Of Contact is Sophie DeBolle, or if they are unavailable,- speak to any other member of the Connections UK Team.

**CONNECTIONS UK remains committed to supporting  
THE DERBY HOUSE PRINCIPLES**

<https://www.professionalwargaming.co.uk/EDI.html>

