CONNECTIONS UK

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

2026

9 - 10 SEPTEMBER

www.professionalwargaming.co.uk

CONNECTIONS 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.

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

CONNECTIONS UK

DAY 1 WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

Time	Content & [LOCATIONS]
08.30 - 09.15	**Registration** [HOWELL THEATRE: ENTRANCE FOYER]
09.30 - 10.00	**Welcome Brief** [HOWELL THEATRE] Health & Safety Brief Introduction Programme details
	KICK-OFF PRESENTATIONS [HOWELL THEATRE] CHAIR: GRAHAM-LONGLEY BROWN and ROBIN SMITH
10.00	**Disaster Village - From Parish Council to Playbook** Daniel Kahn
10.30	**The Low Overhead Integrated Wargaming Model (LOIWM)** Christopher Webb
11.00	**Break [HOWELL THEATRE: ENTRANCE FOYER]**
	PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED [HOWELL THEATRE] CHAIR: JIM WALLMAN and GUY SELWAY
11.30	**Use of mixed methods in analytical wargaming: the Joint Operational Wargame (JOWG)** Johan Elg
12.00	**Improving War Game Development with Theory-Informed AI Assistance** David E Swanson

CONNECTIONS UK

DAY 1 WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

Time	Content & [LOCATIONS]
12.30	**Multi Domain Operations (MDO) Planning tool** Vedette Consulting Ltd, Angus Henderson
13.00	**Lunch [HAMILTON CENTRE - THE NEWTON ROOM]**

PRACTITIONER SESSIONS

These afternoon sessions are a mixture of game demonstrations, practicals and workshops.

[THE LECTURE CENTRE]

The sessions below will run in parallel, in separate rooms, all within The Lecture Centre. These are indicated next to each session below as follows:

- on the first floor [ROOM 1XX]
- or on the second floor [ROOM 2XX]

14.00 - 16.30	GAME/DEMO from Johan Elg **Joint Operational Wargame (JOWG) [ROOM 108]**	GAME/DEMO from Daniel Kahn **Disaster Village [ROOM 110]**
14.00 - 16.30	GAME/DEMO from Christopher Webb **Low Overhead Integrated Wargaming Model [ROOM 112]**	GAME/DEMO from David E Swanson **War Game Project Milestone Review Practicum* [ROOM 116]** *This session has requested attendees with laptop(s)

CONNECTIONS UK

DAY 1 WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

Time	Content & [LOCATIONS]	
14.00 - 16.30	GAME/DEMOfrom Vedette Consulting Ltd, Angus Henderson **Multi Domain Operations (MDO) Planning tool [ROOM 114]**	GAME/DEMO from David Manley **NATO SFI 1271 ASW Barrier Wargame, GIUK Gap 2030 [ROOM 109]**
14.00 - 16.30	PRACTICAL from Cosimmetry (James Griffin and Chris Major) **Methods used for CNI wargame [ROOM 111]**	GAME/DEMO from Anja van der Hulst **Wargaming the Arctic (x3) (Future Warfare in the Arctic, Hybrid Threats and Strategic Competition, Climate Change as a Security Driver) [ROOM 115] And spillover [ROOM 117, 216, 217]**
14.00 - 16.30	DEMO from i2 Group (Jonathan Thompson, Sam Wicks and Patrick Fraser) **i2 Interactive Wargaming Experience: An end to end platform by wargamers, for wargamers [ROOM 107]**	Brunel students **[ROOM 113]**

CONNECTIONS UK

DAY 1 WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

Time	Content & [LOCATIONS]
16.45 - 17.00	**Conference pathways** **[HOWELL THEATRE]** Look ahead to Day 2.
17.00	Close
18.00 -21.00	**SOCIAL GAMES AND NETWORKING** **[HAMILTON : NEWTON ROOM]**

CONNECTIONS UK

DAY 2 THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

Time	Content & [LOCATIONS]	
08.30 - 08.45	Welcome to Day 2 [HOWELL THEATRE] Move to Hot Topic Presentations CHAIR; JEREMY SMITH & SOPHIE DEBOLLE	
	[HOWELL THEATRE] Chair: Guy Selway	[LECTURE CENTRE ROOM B] Chair: Jeremy Smith
09.00	**In-practice LLM tools for visualising wargames** Cosmo Forbes [HOWELL THEATRE]	**Sweden Regional development** Johan Olofsson [LECTURE CENTRE ROOM B]
09.30	**Exploring how wargame practitioners can use LLMs across the wargaming cycle** Robert Burks [HOWELL THEATRE]	**Vista Gladiator Wargaming Tools** Charles Bennett [LECTURE CENTRE ROOM B]
10.00 -10.30	Break	
	[HOWELL THEATRE] Chair: Sophie Debolle	[LECTURE CENTRE ROOM B] Chair: Tom Mouat
10.30	**Ogmia wargame - cognitive and the information environment of the Czech Republic** Jakub Zavřel [HOWELL THEATRE]	**The Other Side of the Fence Soviet Cold War Wargames** James Langham [LECTURE CENTRE ROOM B]

CONNECTIONS UK

DAY 2 THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

Time	Content & [LOCATIONS]	
11.00	**Blended Wargaming Techniques** Jonny Walker [HOWELL THEATRE]	**Wargaming in China: from PLA's AI-driven military education to tabletop wargaming** Alessandro Arduino [LECTURE CENTRE ROOM B]
11.30 -12.00	Break	
	[HOWELL THEATRE] Chair: Colin Marston	(LECTURE CENTRE ROOM B] Chair: Robin Smith
12.00	**The intersection of national defence and civil resilience** Alan Edwards [HOWELL THEATRE]	**Baltic Trap** Michael W Fowler [LECTURE CENTRE ROOM B]
12.30	**Non-Kinetic Wargaming for Local Authority Emergency Response Training** Paul Mitchell, Kyle Cruickshank [HOWELL THEATRE]	**The Hidden Enemy: Cognitive and Social Biases in Wargaming Practice** Prashant Chandrasekharan [LECTURE CENTRE ROOM B]
13.00-14.00	Lunch [HAMILTON CENTRE - NEWTON ROOM]	

CONNECTIONS UK

DAY 2 THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

PRACTITIONER SESSIONS

These afternoon sessions are a mixture of game demonstrations, practicals and workshops.

[THE LECTURE CENTRE]

The below sessions will run in parallel, in separate rooms, all within The Lecture Centre. These are indicated next to each session below as follows:
in the Lecture rooms [ROOM A ,B, or C]
or on the first floor [ROOM 1XX]
or on the second floor [ROOM 2XX]

Time	Content & [LOCATIONS]	
14.00 - 16.30	GAME/DEMO from Robert Burks **Exploring how wargame practitioners can use LLMs across the wargaming cycle** [ROOM 108]	DISCUSSION from Johan Olofsson **Sweden Regional development game** [ROOM 109]
14.00 - 16.30	PRACTICAL from Cosmo Forbes **In-practice LLM tools for visualising wargames** [ROOM 111]	GAME/DEMO from James Langham **The Other Side of the Fence: Soviet Cold War Wargames** [ROOM 117]
14.00 - 16.30	GAME/DEMO from Alan Edwards **The intersection of national defence and civil resilience** [ROOM 110]	GAME/DEMO from Kyle Cruickshank **Non-Kinetic Wargaming for Local Authority Emergency Response Training** [ROOM 112]

CONNECTIONS UK

DAY 2 THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

Time	Content & [LOCATIONS]	
14.00 - 16.30	WORKSHOP from Rikki Parsons **Developing strategic games to deliver deterrence training** [ROOM 114]	GAME/DEMO from Michael W Fowler **Baltic Trap** [ROOM 116]
14.00 - 16.30	GAME/DEMO from Philip Gustafsson **FOI Developed Air Operations Wargame** [ROOM 113]	WORKSHOP from Louis Jeffries and Mari Troskie **Edge of Tomorrow: Outlining a pathway methodology for Scenario Development** [LECTURE C]
14.00 - 16.30	WORKSHOP from Kristopher Lovell **Wargames for Leadership** [LECTURE A]	GAME/DEMO from Jakub Zavřel **Ogmia, cognitive and the information environment (Cz)** [ROOM 115]
14.00 - 16.30	WORKSHOP from Jonny Walker **Blended Wargaming Techniques (with CLAM modelling)** [LECTURE B]	DEMO from i2 Group (Jonathan Thompson, Sam Wicks and Patrick Fraser) **i2 Interactive Wargaming Experience: An end to end platform by wargamers, for wargamers** [ROOM 107]
16.30 - 17.00	Closing remarks [HOWELL THEATRE] CHAIR: COLIN MARSTON AND GUY SELWAY	

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