



## Circular Action for People and Planet: Using Coffee and Creativity in Innovative Networks and Operations (CAPPUCCINO)

### Project Symposium Series

[Sign-up to attend/present here!](#)

CAPPUCCINO is a collaborative project between UoB and UIUC funded by the BRIDGE Sustainability Seed Fund, bringing together diverse disciplinary expertise to explore the creation of **sustainable circular economies** that leverage the unique positions of our respective universities regarding the **convergence of research, education, innovation and civic engagement**.

The exemplar commodity in CAPPUCCINO is **spent coffee grounds (SCGs)** derived from cafés on our campuses. We have identified numerous ways in which SCGs can become a unifying focus for research, education, innovation and engagement activities on-campus and beyond, involving academic, industrial and community partners in the **United Kingdom, United States and Brazil**, the world's largest coffee producer.

Through this project's initial specific focus on SCGs, we have three aims:

- 1) To prepare a case study contribution to a report to be authored in collaboration with other UoB and UIUC colleagues and presented at **COP30** in Belém, Brazil.
- 2) To **build capacity, share knowledge** and **establish a network** of academics and other colleagues who have interests in developing research, education, innovation and engagement activities centred on campus-based circular economies (not just of SCGs!)
- 3) To **prepare larger grant bids**.

**Diversity of disciplinary perspectives** is crucial to the success of this effort. As such, we invite colleagues who work in any field that can shine light on the question of making best use of SCGs and campus-based circular economies more generally: **materials science, chemical engineering, chemistry, engineering, plant science, psychology, sociology, history, Brazilian studies, economics, indigenous studies, civic engagement, responsible business, entrepreneurship, public engagement**. There will be plenty more we have missed!

If you are keen to get involved, [please sign up](#) for our series of **three focused and interactive symposia**, taking place in the next few months. Don't worry if you can't/don't want to attend all three sessions—we anticipate that each symposium will attract a different crowd. **We invite one-minute, one-slide flash presentations** to highlight either your existing work that aligns with this project or your take on an opportunity this project offers that you might like to explore. You are still very welcome to attend without presenting. **PhD students, postdocs and non-academic colleagues are also very welcome to attend, present and contribute to the project**. Each symposium will be hybrid; please indicate if you would like to attend in person (spaces limited). Birmingham attendees are welcome to the nearest bar for drinks after each symposium!

#### **Symposium #1 Research and innovation Fri 7<sup>th</sup> March 15:00–18:30 (GMT)**

Experimental, theoretical and computational insights on processing and use of materials (e.g. composites, polymers, mushroom-based) and chemicals sustainably derived from natural feedstocks, for construction, energy, medicines, cosmetics, etc. Flash presentations will be supplemented by a design thinking-driven activity focusing on what SCG-derived products would most benefit our communities.

**09:00–12:30 (CST)**

#### **Symposium #2 Education and training Wed 26<sup>th</sup> March 15:00–18:30 (GMT)**

What educational opportunities could open up thanks to on-campus collection and processing of SCGs? Enhancing existing curricula; consolidating expertise; entrepreneurship and enterprise; responsible research and innovation; responsible business; multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary initiatives; civic education; sustainable development.

**10:00–13:30 (CDT)**

#### **Symposium #3 Civic engagement Mon 28<sup>th</sup> April 15:00–18:30 (BST)**

What engagement opportunities might open up thanks to on-campus collection and processing of SCGs? Community gardens; food production for those in need; raising STEM capital; citizen science; bridging the global north–south divide.

**09:00–12:30 (CDT)**