

SYMPOSIUM ON PENSIONS AND THE USS DISPUTE

In support of [UCU](#) strike action in protest at USS pension changes, the [Social Policy Association](#), the [Development Studies Association](#) and the British Sociological Association's [Work, Employment and Economic Life](#) study group are jointly organising a one-day symposium examining pensions and the USS dispute.

The symposium will take place at **City, University of London, room D104, St John St, EC1R 0JD** on **Thursday the 3rd of May** and will run from **10am until 3pm**, with lunch provided.

The symposium will demonstrate support for members of the SPA, DSA and BSA in the **UCU** trying to protect their pension entitlements and ensure that careers in our disciplines continue to be valued. As well as bringing people together, the symposium will examine some of the proposed changes and also the nature of responses within universities. The symposium will also be an opportunity to recognise and discuss the context of these changes.

Programme:

9:30am	Registration and refreshments	
10am	Welcome	Professor Nick Ellison (University of York)
10:10am	Opening speaker – followed by questions	Dr Jo Grady (University of Sheffield) – <i>‘Activism, solidarity and the power of unity’</i>
10:40am	UCU Pension dispute	Dr Rachel Cohen (City, University of London) – <i>‘Experiences of the strike’</i>
11:00am	Panel 1: Understanding the Changes <i>Two twenty minute presentations</i>	1 – John Murray (Insurance Consultant) – <i>‘USS; Why change?’</i> 2 – Tim Pike (Pensions Policy Institute) – <i>‘The evolving DB landscape’</i>
11:40pm	Panel 1 – questions	Chaired by Professor Nick Ellison
12:00pm	Lunch – provided	
1pm	Panel 2: University staff response to the changes <i>Three twenty minute presentations</i>	1 – Dr Paul Bridgen & Traute Meyer (University of Southampton) – <i>‘USS and the corporatisation of higher education’</i> 2 – Prof Dennis Leech (University of Warwick) – <i>‘Pensions: Social contract or financial speculation?’</i> 3 – Prof Mike Otsuka (LSE) – <i>‘Collective versus individual pensions: Not DB versus DC’</i>
2:00pm	Panel 2 – questions	Chaired by Professor Nick Ellison
2:20pm	Closing speaker	Professor Felicity Callard (Birkbeck) – <i>‘Citizen research’ and the pension dispute’</i>

2:45pm	Summary and Thanks	Professor Nick Ellison
3pm	Finish	

Note: All presentations represent the views of the speaker

The cost for the day, including lunch, is £25. For those engaged in recent UCU industrial action, the event will be free. Places are limited, so please book early.

To book a place, <https://www.city.ac.uk/events/2018/may/one-day-pensions-symposium>