



Empowering *One* Another.

Nurture a culture of awareness to enhance collaboration and engagement, driving success for everyone.

Programme of Women in Engineering Session

2nd September 2025

13:30-14:30 Panel Discussion: “Empowering one another: Promoting Inspiration, Compassion, and Collaboration” in Hall 10a

This session will discuss important topics like gender discrimination, caring responsibilities, and neurodiversity, along with IEEE’s initiatives to support inclusion. The goal is to raise awareness of challenges individuals face in the workplace and daily life, build stronger relationships, and encourage inclusive practices. Please note that this session does not provide formal training on these sensitive subjects.

If you would like to ask the panel a question, please use this form: [click](#).

The audience will also be invited to ask questions at the event.

14:30-15:30 Afternoon Tea ☕ in the ICC Balcony

This informal event aims to create a friendly and relaxed atmosphere for networking, providing an opportunity to continue conversations with the panel speakers and connect with colleagues.



TOGETHER,
WE RISE.

Panel Members and Chair's Biographies.



Ilknur Colak (Chair)

a Senior Member of IEEE and currently serves as CTO for MV Converters at Schneider Electric. She holds M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from Istanbul Technical University and brings over two decades of experience across leading institutions including ABB, CERN, TUBITAK, and MR.

Her expertise spans modular multilevel converter topologies, high-power resonant converters, insulation coordination, reliability, EMC, and wave energy systems. Dr. Colak is recognized for her leadership in power electronics innovation and her commitment to advancing inclusive engineering practices.

An Associate Professor in Digital Engineering at the University of Birmingham. She obtained her PhD in Computational Modelling in 2015 at Ruhr University Bochum, Germany. Her research combines advanced simulations with AI technologies to address resilience challenges in infrastructure. She currently serves as President of the UKACM.

Jelena Ninić



Brad Lehman

A Professor at Northeastern University (NU), Boston and former President of IEEE PELS. At NU, he co-founded and directed the S-POWER program, which supported and mentored over 200 underrepresented students in clean energy. His research focuses on power electronics, especially modeling, design, and control of high-density converters.

Ku Ku Ahamad

Network Development Engineer at the National Energy System Operator (NESO), responsible for Strategic Energy Planning for Offshore Windfarms in GB. Previously, she was a Research Fellow at WMG, University of Warwick (2018–2023). She holds a Dipl.-Ing. in Electrical Engineering from Fachhochschule Hannover, Germany (2007), and a PhD in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (Power Electronics) from the University of Manchester (2017).



James Richards

A Professor of Employment Relations at the Edinburgh Business School, Heriot-Watt University. A key role James holds is Director of Engagement, which also includes REF Impact Case Study Champion. His research interests include neurodiversity, disability, trade union organising, in-work poverty, leaveism, and sustainable and socially responsible forms of human resource management.