

## **“Exploring The Past, Present and Futures of Environmental Biotechnology as a Field” November 4th 2024, Central London**

### **Introduction/ background**

The term ‘Environmental Biotechnology’ (EB) is central to EBNet’s activities, but its use has raised some interesting questions. It does not have universal recognition, nor do all users agree on what it encompasses; however, many see a value in the term. The [Social Science Working Group](#) of the BBSRC [Environmental Biotechnology Network \(EBNet\)](#) has, since May 2024, been examining the histories, contemporary dynamics and potential futures of the field of environmental biotechnology, drawing on insights from the social sciences, in particular science and technology studies (STS). This event provides the opportunity to learn about and discuss the findings of this research, and to contribute to discussions around the potential futures of environmental biotechnology. The outputs of the workshop will feed into the final report of the EBNet Social Sciences Working Group, to be published later in 2024.

### **Draft Programme (as of 12/9/2024)**

*Morning – the past and present of environmental biotechnology:*

10.30 Coffee & Registration

11:00 Introduction & Welcome - Sonia Heaven, Adrian Ely, Jane Calvert (chair)

11:05 Talk 1 (20 minutes) (intro and bibliometrics) – Josie Coburn & Duncan Moore

11:25 Responses 1 + 2 (15 mins) (speakers to be confirmed)

11:40 Q & A (20 mins)

12:00 Coffee Break

12:15 Talk 2 (20 mins)(more qualitative results/ interpretation) - Adrian Ely & Kyle Parker

12:40 Responses 3 + 4 (15 mins) (speakers to be confirmed)

12:55 Q & A (20 mins)

13:15 Lunch

*Afternoon - futures of environmental biotechnology:*

14.00 Introduction to the afternoon sessions - Jane Calvert (chair)

14.10 4 Provocations (5 minute talks without slides, putting forward a specific vision for the future of environmental biotechnology) (speakers to be confirmed)

14:30 World Café including 4 rounds of circulation, with 15-20 minutes per round.

Approximate timings:

14.30 Round 1

14.45 Round 2

15.00 Plenary - 2 minutes from each of the four tables (10 mins)

15.10 Coffee break (20 mins)

15.30 Round 3

15.45 Round 4

16.00 Plenary - 2 minutes from each of the four tables (10 mins)

16.10 Plenary discussion

16:30 Feedback & closing reflection (speakers to be confirmed)

17.00 Close

The [EBNet Social Science Working Group](#) are [Adrian Ely](#), [Josie Coburn](#) and [Duncan Moore](#) (University of Sussex), [Jane Calvert](#), [Rob Smith](#) and [Kyle Parker](#) (University of Edinburgh) and [Ismael Rafols](#) (CWTS in the Netherlands).

For further information on this event, please contact [EBNet@EBNet.ac.uk](mailto:EBNet@EBNet.ac.uk)